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Palestinian Affairs

Delegation Refuses To Present PLO Memo to Christopher

JN0508085193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Aug 93 pp 1, 20

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—The Palestinian negotiating delegation has refused to present to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher the memorandum that was sent to it from the Palestinian leadership in Tunis. The delegation has protested the memorandum's contents in terms of amendments and phrases on the issue of jurisdiction and refusing to move the issue of Jerusalem to the final stage.

Well-informed Palestinian sources revealed that the Palestinian delegation, including Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Nabil Qasis, Su'ad al-'Amiri, and Jabr Faddah, held an expanded meeting during which it discussed the contents of the Palestinian leadership's memorandum.

The sources said that the delegation decided to send al-Husayni to meet with Christopher. However, al-Husayni finally decided to go as part of a unified delegation to meet with the U.S. secretary in order to inform him of its rejection of the U.S. paper and any other paper that encroaches on the Palestinian people's rights, regardless of its source.

The sources added that the amendments made by the committee in charge of following up the negotiations dealt with the issue of jurisdiction. The paragraphs the delegation had earlier presented to Ross were included in these amendments, but these, too, had been further amended.

The Palestinian sources said that the clauses to which the delegation objected concerned the wording of these clauses, which could refer to all the territories, including Jerusalem, or just the territories. The Palestinian leadership's memorandum agreed to move the issue of Jerusalem to the final stage for the time being. This confused the delegation and turned its meeting with the U.S. secretary into an exploratory one.

The Palestinian sources noted that the delegation's meeting with Christopher today will determine the main issues of the U.S. secretary's mission.

To begin with, the delegation decided not to meet with Christopher. However, it later went as a unified team to inform him of the Palestinian rejection, given that Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, who did not take part in the delegation's recent meetings, called for boycotting the U.S. secretary.

PLA Recruitment of Youths in Jordan Reported

PM0408155293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Despite Financial Problems PLO Is Talking About, Liberation Army Opens Recruitment Doors to Palestinian Youths in Jordan"]

[Excerpts] London, Political Studies Center—Informed Palestinian sources have said that the Palestinian Liberation Army [PLA] present in Jordan, whose units based there are called the "Badr Forces," opened recruitment doors some time ago to an unspecified number of Palestinian youths who wish to work in this field. It is noted that opening recruitment in this manner conflicts with the financial situation that the PLO is talking about. The PLO says that the Palestinian National Fund is experiencing a real state of bankruptcy that has led to the closure of a number of embassies and offices in Eastern Europe, the Scandinavian states, and other states. The measure has aroused numerous questions about which quarters will bear the expenses of this new recruitment and about the real reasons for it, especially as the peace process in the Middle East is witnessing rapid and crucial developments at the level of the Palestinian issue.

Some circles say that recruiting new groups for the Palestinian Liberation Army is linked with the talk about an early transfer of powers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from the Israeli occupation authorities to the Palestinian autonomy authorities. [passage omitted]

There is a prevalent belief that the opening of recruitment for Palestinian Liberation Army units based in Jordan could have something to do with the Palestinian-Jordanian confederation issue that was raised recently, although nothing serious has occurred nor have any real or practical steps been implemented within that framework. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Islamic 'Militants' Call For Mubarak's Death

NC0408215993 Paris AFP in English 2131 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, Aug 4 (AFP) - An underground Islamic militant group in Egypt on Wednesday [4 August] called for the death of President Husni Mubarak to avenge the hangings of militants this year.

He who "kills unfairly" must face the same fate, the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] said in a statement. Mubarak last year ordered trials of Muslim militants held in military courts, which have since issued many death sentences.

Fifteen have been carried out.

The group urged the "Egyptian Muslim people to get rid of the tyrant Mubarak, responsible for the pools of blood, poverty and dependence (on the West)".

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah also challenged Mubarak to prove it was involved in recent bombings in Cairo, charging that they were carried out by the Israeli intelligence service Mosad.

This group denied it was behind three bombings here in May and June that left 16 people dead.

It said "the Mosad's involvement in the attacks in Cairo is undeniable. We challenge Mubarak to announce on television the real culprit in these attacks."

Left wing opposition groups also blamed the Mosad. Mubarak last month ruled out that Israeli intelligence was behind the bombings.

Also on Wednesday, police reported that 25 suspected militants were arrested in Cairo and Upper Egypt, some in cases involving shootouts.

Saudi Arabia Extradites 6 Jihad Members

NC0408153693 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 2 Aug 93 p 18

[Text] Saudi authorities last week handed over six Jihad members to Egypt. The six had been living in Saudi Arabia following their escape from Egyptian prisons.

Most notorious of those who have been extradited is Hasan al-Hilbawi, a leading Jihad figure who had been sentenced to seven years imprisonment in connection with the Jihad organization case. He escaped from prison and went to Saudi Arabia. It is worth noting that al-Hilbawi has a special organization bearing his name in Egypt, members of which have recently been arrested.

Security Forces' Arrest of 'Terrorists' Reported

NC0408214293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Excerpt] A responsible security source has stated that the security forces today apprehended 20 extremists. Terrorist Khalid 'Awni notified the security agencies about their whereabouts after his arrest. The source said that forces from the Central Security and the State Security Investigation Department today moved to the residences of these terrorist groups in al-Matariyah and arrested them. They also arrested Bisharah Zakhari, an arms dealer who used to supply the terrorist groups with arms. The security forces searched his home and found a revolver, a number of magazines, and a large number of bullets.

The security forces also arrested eight terrorists in al-Minya Governorate. The source said that the detained terrorists took part in the recent terrorist operations.

A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry said that the masses' positive and effective participation with the police agencies affirm that they now realize that the homeland's security and stability is in their interest first and foremost. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Invited to Summit With Sudan's al-Bashir

NC0408164993 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has received an official invitation from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in Sudan, to visit Khartoum for consultations on relations between the two countries.

Knowledgeable Sudanese sources in Cairo have confirmed that al-Bashir proposed that the Egyptian-Sudanese summit be held before the end of August.

Mubarak Receives Telephone Call From al-Qadhdhafi

NC0408184693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1836 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this evening received a telephone call from Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who wanted to reassure himself about Egypt's safety following the tremor on Tuesday [3 August]. They also reviewed issues that concern the two fraternal countries.

Ministry Increases Staff in Baghdad Office

NC0408165693 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has increased the number of staff members in the Egyptian interests section in Iraq to meet the needs of 120,000 Egyptian workers in Iraq. Diplomatic sources in Cairo have noted that the number of employees in the

section has risen to five diplomats and administrative officers led by Counselor Rida Nasr.

Meanwhile, Egypt has agreed to allow Iraq to have the same number of staff in the Iraqi mission in Cairo. The sources pointed out that the Egyptian mission in Baghdad has solved the problems of the 120,000 Egyptian nationals regarding renewal of passports and residence permits.

NDP Official: Israel Not To Ask Syria To Leave Lebanon

NC0408152493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1117 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Mustafa Khalil, deputy leader of the National Democratic Party [NDP], has affirmed that the recent Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon could expose the Middle East peace process to a setback.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine to be published Friday, 6 August, Khalil said that what happened in Lebanon provides the biggest justification for clinging to the peace negotiations, since they lead to a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute. [passage omitted]

Dr. Mustafa Khalil revealed that Israeli officials told him during his recent visit to Israel that they would not ask Syria to withdraw from Lebanon in return for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. They will only ask Syria to provide guarantees for the security of northern Israel from southern Lebanon "because the Lebanese Government is unable to do that". [passage omitted]

Christopher Tour Said Last Chance for Peace Talks

NC0408145393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Christopher's Tour Last Chance To Rescue the Peace Process"]

[Text] Political experts and analysts throughout the world agree that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the Arab region, which he started the day before yesterday in Cairo, in fact represents the last chance to rescue the peace process in the Middle East from complete collapse. Therefore, the success of this American tour could pave the way for resuming the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington more seriously to discuss essential issues and realize an agreement, based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, that satisfies all concerned parties. Both these resolutions confirm the principle of land for peace which is what Israel has to realize very well.

On the other hand, the failure of Christopher's mission to bridge the gap between the stances of the Arab parties and Israel could lead to dangerous and negative results that threaten not only the security and stability of all the people in the Arab region, but also American and European interests in the Middle East.

We believe that Washington realized this fact very well as Christopher's arrival in the region approached. This was confirmed more and more by the Israeli aggression against Lebanon a few days ago, the objective of which was to secure its northern borders and its so-called security strip there. Another objective of this aggression was to terrorize the Lebanese people and empty southern Lebanon of its residents. But the Israeli aggression will not bring security; it will never establish security for the Israeli people.

In light of what has been said, it has become imperative for the United States to assume its role today as a full partner in the peace process which started in October 1991 in Madrid under the cosponsorship of the United States and Russia. These talks continue to go around in circles as a result of the rigidity of Israel's rulers and the stubbornness of its representatives to the Washington talks over the past two years. They have stalled for time and made the Arab negotiators despair by drowning them in pointless marginal argumentative issues. They do this to push the Arab side to withdraw from the talks. Thus, the Arabs will then be held responsible for the collapse of the peace process.

This is what President Husni Mubarak realized a long time ago through Egypt's past experience in negotiations with Israel. He warned the Arab brothers many times, urged them to continue the talks, impose the peace challenge on the Israeli side, and place the international community and Israel's allies before their direct responsibilities of protecting the security and stability of the Middle East, which is an indivisible part of the whole world's peace and stability.

President Mubarak once again affirmed Egypt's stand two days ago after meeting with the U.S. secretary of state. He announced that the peace talks must not stop under any circumstances. They must continue because peace is very precious. He affirmed at the same time that the negotiations must resume soon. We believe that this time, Christopher has not come here heading a ranking delegation of experts in Middle East affairs, only to invite or urge the Arab or Israeli sides to resume the Washington talks. He came here to hold important talks with the Syrians and Palestinians, in particular, and with the Israelis with the objective of overcoming the major problems that thwarted the previous tours and discussing essential issues, such as withdrawal from the Golan Heights, territorial jurisdiction for the Palestinians on their land, the status of Jerusalem, and security guarantees for Israel.

This is what Christopher made very clear when he announced in Cairo that the time has come to make decisions regarding the peace process. The U.S. secretary also said yesterday after his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that the moment when President Clinton personally intervenes in the Arab-Israeli talks is now close. Christopher also asked the Palestinian

delegation to present new proposals after they rejected the recent American proposals. The most important point, however, is the U.S. secretary of state's amendment of his agenda for visiting Syria. He has decided to shuttle between Syria and Israel.

If Washington has truly decided to use its influence today in pushing the peace process forward, it has to prove its credibility to the Arab side in practice and confirm to Israel's rulers that peace comes in exchange for land and that the demand for land and peace means capitulation—something the Arabs will never accept under any circumstance. Before all this, Washington must convince the rulers of Israel—it is capable of doing that—that the time has come to put an end to tension in this sensitive part of the world and that the strategy of force to impose a fait accompli on others is outdated and can not be used any more.

Editorial Cites Need for Arab Reconciliation

NC0508071093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 5 Aug 93

[From the "Press Review"]

[Text] In its editorial today under the headline "Arab Reconciliation," AL-AHRAM says: Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed the importance of achieving Arab reconciliation in order to emerge from the difficult situation the Arab nation is experiencing. He referred to Egypt's initiative at the Arab League Council in September of 1992 regarding the meaning of Arab national security, which must be based on reconciliation and ending differences.

The paper adds: What is certain is that the Arab nation is facing increasing dangers because of its important geographical position and huge resources, which exposes its security to continuous threats. This fact has been on the minds of the Arab leaders since the establishment of the Arab League. The Arab governments must take a serious view of the issue of Arab security and reconciliation, especially now after the Israeli attack against southern Lebanon.

The paper adds: The Arab world must be aware of the dangers surrounding it. We think that the first step in any Arab reconciliation is for Iraq to announce that it is dropping all previous claims against Kuwait and that it is ready to recognize Kuwait as an independent state and maintain good neighborly relations with it. Iraq must work to settle all outstanding problems in the spirit of Arab brotherhood, and Kuwait must extend its hand to every Arab state seeking closer relations with it.

Liberal Party Leader Supports Third Term for Mubarak

NC0508083193 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 26 Jul 93 p 8

[Text] Speaking at a rally in al-Fayyum last week, Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad said that he supports the nomination of President Husni Mubarak for a third presidential term. Giving reasons for this support, Murad said that under Mubarak the opposition press was completely free to voice dissent and criticism. Since he came to power, Mubarak has accepted criticism with tolerance and good temper.

Murad pointed out that President Mubarak released the political detainees, jailed by the late President Anwar al-Sadat, in 1981.

The Liberal Party leader said that the first and second terms of Mubarak's rule saw intensive efforts to rehabilitate the country's infrastructure. More than 40 billion pounds were spent to build more roads, double the number of telephone lines, and improve ports, airports, and railroads.

Murad said that under Mubarak, $21 billion of Egyptian debts were forgiven and immense growth took place in industry and services.

Mubarak's foreign policy was guided by clear objectives, resulting in Egypt's return to the Arab League and the relocation of the League's headquarters to Egypt, the Liberal Party leader said.

Sinai was liberated, and Taba was returned to Egypt through negotiations, Murad pointed out. He added that Egypt also returned to the Islamic Conference Organization. The Egyptian role in the OAU also grew, with Mubarak named a chairman of that organization twice in four years, Murad pointed out.

The subject of the rally was the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Western involvement in that crisis. The rally called on international organizations to intervene and protect Muslims from the Nazi-like Serbian aggressive action.

Morocco

King Issues Message on Privatization

LD0408224293 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani has chaired a government council meeting at which a number of bills were discussed. At the opening of the council, Abbas Kaissi, the government secretary general, read the text of a sublime message to the prime minister from His Majesty King Hassan II. The following is the text of the message:

[Begin recording of Sadik Maaninou, secretary general of the Information Ministry] Praise be to God and peace and prayers on his messenger and his family and companions. The royal seal of Hassan Ben Mohamed Ben Youssef Ben Hassan. Our dear servant and Prime Minister Karim Lamrani, may God protect you. Peace and mercy be with you.

In the not so distant past, we decided that the state would privatize some public companies and enterprises it possessed or managed, partly or fully, for various financial, political, economic, and social reasons. We made that decision in order to free the state from burdens not originally incumbent upon it to deal with and because we noticed that the Moroccan private sector and national capital have become amply capable of performing the natural role assigned to them. The state initially assumed that role, because of the special circumstances which accompanied the early years of our independence. Our objective behind the decision to privatize was to stimulate a large sector of our national economy and to secure better exploitation of our savings, resorting to foreign technology and capital whenever the need for that arises. However, a number of national companies, of vital importance to our organization, are still under full state ownership. While we are currently anxious to maintain them as they are, we would like to make sure that they do not become a burden on the citizen in the future. On the contrary, we are anxious to make them a useful resource for all. Therefore, a spirit of firmness and proper management has to permeate them.

On those grounds, the government has to take the necessary measures to achieve that objective. Foremost among them is an in-depth study, to be carried out with the aim of giving us as true a picture as is possible of the conditions of those public companies and subsequently to suggest to us the ways and means of securing the best management and the lowest costs for them. A specialist international company could be commissioned to carry out the study.

As financial control has nowadays become running practice at companies and enterprises, you have to apply it in every public institution, as may be necessary. You are required to achieve this as soon as possible and to report back on the outcome to us. May God direct you. God's peace, mercy and blessings be with you. The royal palace, Rabat, 22 July. [end recording]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Comments on Production, Election Dates

EA0308113093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, has asserted that the final solution for alleviating the suffering of those with limited incomes lies in achieving abundance and more production. His excellency pointed out that the recent decisions adopted by the Council of Ministers in this regard represent partial and interim solutions pending the achievement of the final solution.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir added in his meeting today with leaders of the information and media organs that public sector companies can play a big role in reducing the cost of commodities. The leader of the revolution asked all public establishments to strive to establish production units with vacancies for a number of workers.

His excellency also criticized speculators who are accustomed to working as wholesale or retail traders and who raise prices without a license to do so and without paying taxes matching the exorbitant profits they make through that parasitic activity. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir also appealed to citizens to help make the recent policies of the Council of Ministers a success. He called on them to be committed to buying commodities at legal prices.

[Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English at 1500 GMT on 4 August adds: "The RCC chairman also spoke on the steps for the completion of the political system up to the state level. He said elections were expected to take place in April and May 1994."]

Clashes Between Government, Garang Forces Widen

PM0408120893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Aug 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Hundreds Killed or Wounded in Clashes Between Garang and Government Forces in Southern Sudan"]

[Text] London, Nairobi, Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed Sudanese sources have confirmed that the battles that began in the middle of last month between Sudanese Government forces and the forces of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, the major faction led by John Garang, have expanded on several axes in the south.

Government forces have moved from the capital of the south, Juba, via two axes: one from Juba to Numli [as transliterated] and the other from Juba to Yei Kaya [as transliterated].

The sources said that the forces which headed for Numli faced resistance from Garang's forces and had to withdraw a distance of 10 km from the town, taking their wounded with them. The government is working to support them by supplying them with new troops from Juba.

The [Garang] movement's forces estimated the number of those killed from among the government forces at 256, saying that they will announce the names of 102 from the Popular Defense Forces on whom identity cards were found. Among them are doctors, lawyers, and engineers who volunteered to join the government forces.

Sources in Khartoum say that 80 were killed and over 240 wounded from among government forces. The authorities evacuated al-Naw Hospital in al-Thawrah area in Omdurman, 'Awad Husayn Hospital, and the Medical Corps Hospital.

As for the fierce battles on the other axis, that is the Juba-Yei Kaya, the fighting is still continuing.

Furthermore, government forces have moved from Waw to Mondri via Brumbik [as transliterated] with a view to attacking the town of Maridi, which is under the Garang group's control. Maridi is 53 miles from Mondri.

Observers believe that the renewal of the fighting in such intensity in several areas means the collapse of the cease-fire. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his office in Nairobi, Garang said that the attack which his forces confronted is similar to the plan prepared by the government for the summer campaign.

He described the attack as a desperate attempt by the Sudanese Government to divert attention from the economic and political crisis it is suffering, in the hope of achieving imaginary military victories in the south.

He added that by its insistence on violating the cease-fire agreement the government is deepening the Sudanese people's tragedy by further killing, terror, starvation, and deception.

Saudi Arabia

Committee Transfers Over 7 Million Riyals to PLO

LD0508075093 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Yesterday, 6 Safar 1414 AH [4 August 1993], on the instructions of His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh and chairman of the Popular Committee for Helping the Palestinian Mujahidin, 7,184,118 Saudi riyals were transferred from the funds of the Popular Committee for Helping the Palestinian Mujahidin to the PLO.

In a statement to SPA, the director general of the Saudi offices of the Popular Committee for Helping the Palestinian Mujahidin, Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Jamus, said that this money is the first installment for the year 1414 AH from the income of the Popular Committee for Helping the Palestinian Mujahidin. The Committee's income is being regularly transferred to the PLO. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President, PLO's 'Abbas Discuss Mideast Peace

JN0408192093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Rabat, 4 Aug (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, in Rabat today.

During the meeting, they reviewed efforts towards achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. They discussed current developments in the Arab arena and ways to reach the Arab nation's goals and aspirations, bolstering Arab solidarity and cooperation.

Spokesman Blames 'Agents' of Iran for Car Bomb Blast

JN0408115593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1126 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—An official spokesman has stated the following: At 1255 [0855 GMT] today in Baghdad, agents sponsored by the Iranian regime detonated a car which had been booby-trapped with a bomb.

The car, a Brazilian-made Volkswagen taxi, was parked near the al-Salihiyah telephone exchange and the Ibn-al-Bitar Hospital. The explosion wounded two persons, shattered the glass of neighboring buildings and stores, and damaged cars belonging to the Ibn-al-Bitar Hospital.

The spokesman added: This incident clearly shows the political bankruptcy and criminal tendencies of those who supervised and masterminded it. These desperate and misguided people have forgotten that 88,000 tonnes of U.S.-made bombs have failed to shake, by even a hair's breadth, the Iraqis' will and resolve to protect Iraq.

'Secret Agreement' With Iran on Countering Uprisings

NC0408150293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources yesterday disclosed that Baghdad and Tehran reached a secret agreement last month aiming at preventing a renewed popular uprising against tyrant Saddam Husayn in south Iraq.

An Iraqi opposition spokesman in Tehran said that the secret agreement caused a new wave of Iraqi refugees, who recently escaped to Iran, to flee the brutal artillery bombardment carried out in the marshland area by the forces of the ostracized tyrant's regime.

According to these sources, the secret agreement calls on Iran to prevent further uprisings in the south against the dictatorial regime. In return for this, the defeated regime has agreed to give Iran a free hand in chasing armed Iranian Kurds inside Iraqi territory. Baghdad has ordered anti-Iranian groups which are based in areas under its control to stop their military operations against Iranian targets.

According to Iraqi opposition sources in London and Tehran, the inhabitants of south Iraq had planned to launch a new uprising this month. Veteran Iraqi fighters, led by senior Iraqi officers living in exile in Iran, had actually infiltrated into south Iraq to mount the uprising and to coordinate its military operations. Late last month, however, Iranian authorities told the leaders of Iraqi opposition living in Iran that the uprising should be postponed until further notice.

French Group Reports Iranian Army Incursion

NC0408142093 Paris AFP in English 1325 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Paris, Aug 4 (AFP)—The Iranian army made an incursion 20 kilometres (12 miles) into Iraqi Kurdistan on Wednesday [4 August], near Raniyah in northeast Iraq, and bombed the valley and surrounding villages, the French humanitarian organisation Medecins du Monde reported.

It said its medical team in the hospital in Raniyah, the only surgical facilities in the region of a quarter of a million people, had been in immediate danger.

It appealed to the international community, the United Nations and the French government to take steps to protect the population and non-governmental organisations working in the region.

Four months ago, the organisations International Medical Aid and Medecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) had to evacuate the hospital in Azadi, where they had been working for six years, because of ground and air attacks by the Iranian armed forces.

Iran has been sporadically bombing villages on the Iraqi border with Iran since April. Tehran has blamed Iranian opposition groups for the raids carried out on Iraqi soil.

Russian Foreign Economic Minister Visits

Received by Tariq 'Aziz

JN0408121593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, today received Oleg Davydov, first deputy minister of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, who is currently visiting Iraq.

The talks during the meeting dealt with the historic and multifaceted Iraqi-Russian ties and the importance of reviving these ties in the interests of both countries and within the context of international relations based on international law, equality, mutual respect, and joint interests.

The deputy prime minister affirmed that lifting the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq would create broad opportunities for fruitful cooperation between the two countries. He also asserted that Iraq is serious about working with the United Nations to resolve all outstanding issues.

The meeting was attended by 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry, and the Russian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Meets With Industry Minister

JN0408201293 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 4 (INA)—General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di the minister of industry and minerals [title as received] met here today the visiting Russian first deputy minister of foreign economic relations and the accompanying delegation.

The Iraqi minister has stressed in the meeting Iraq's desire to establish developed relations in the areas of industry and generating electric energy in interest of the two friendly peoples.

The industry minister has reviewed the volume of destruction inflicted on the Iraqi industrial installations by the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq and impact of the continued unjust economic blockade on it in stopping its march of growth and industrial development.

The Russian visiting official expressed the Russian Government readiness to develop its relations with Iraq and renew them in the manner serving the two countries and peoples interest.

Holds Talks With Oil Minister

JN0408200293 Baghdad INA in English 1620 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 4, (INA)—The Iraqi Minister of Oil Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has today met the visiting Russian first deputy minister for foreign economic relations.

The Iraqi and Russian officials meeting reviewed oil relations between the two countries and the means of consolidating and developing them. The two sides expressed the desire of the return of the Russian oil companies for the cooperation with the Iraqi oil sector in areas of production and marketing.

Cooperation Agreements Signed

JN0508162193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Aug (INA)—Iraq and Russia today signed three agreements on joint cooperation in the economic, trade, scientific, and technical fields.

'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid, senior under secretary of the Industry and Minerals Ministry [as received], signed the agreements for the Iraqi side, while Oleg Davydov, deputy minister for foreign economic relations, signed for the Russian side. The agreements provide for the promotion of economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries, and the formation of a joint committee to exchange messages and documents with the objective of executing economic projects in Iraq.

In their speeches during the signing ceremony, the heads of the two countries' delegations praised the historic relations between the two friendly countries. They stressed that these agreements will be a new start bolstering relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Paper Says U.S. Seeking To 'Capitalize' on Lebanon Attacks

JN0508112393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH accuses the U.S. Administration of pressuring the Arab sides engaged in the peace talks into accepting the terms of Washington and Tel Aviv to avert a punishment similar to the one meted out to the residents of southern Lebanon.

In an analysis published today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region is a U.S. attempt to capitalize on the recent Zionist aggression, which is a crime that contravened all laws. The United States has claimed that recent developments in Lebanon demonstrate the need to achieve a rapid regional settlement.

The paper cites the implicit U.S. threats leveled against the Arab sides engaged in the peace process, the threats made when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said: In light of the recent developments in Lebanon, we would like to remind those concerned of the importance of making progress in the peace talks. In his warning, Christopher further added: What has happened in Lebanon is only an example of what could happen if no progress is made in the peace talks.

The paper adds: The threats leveled against these Arab sides and the Arab nation as a whole, as contained in these U.S. statements, aim to impose an Israeli peace on the Arabs, a peace based on the peace-for-peace formula, which excludes the restoration of territory and the rights to repatriation and self-determination.

The paper does not acquit the U.S. Administration of involvement in the recent Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon, saying: Nobody believes that Israel could have perpetrated its recent attacks on southern Lebanon without U.S. endorsement and support. As for Washington and Tel Aviv, they have hastened to exploit the results of this aggression to obtain the greatest possible gains.

The paper establishes a connection between the U.S. endorsement of the Israeli aggression on Lebanon and UN silence over this crime, saying that the failure of the UN Security Council to address this aggression and the dubious handling of this aggression by the Western media and Western governments were the natural outcome of this U.S. endorsement.

AL-THAWRAH sheds light on the ulterior motives of the Israeli- U.S. aggression on Lebanon, saying that the United States and Israel have sought to drive people to

desperation, and to give collusive Arab powers the excuse to endorse humiliating capitulation agreements. As for these collusive Arab powers, they have been active partners facilitating the aggression and ensuring its success.

In this regard, the paper focuses on Syria's role, saying that the Damascus regime has chosen not to react to the killing of its soldiers during the Israeli bombardment of al-Biqa' to obtain the satisfaction of the United States, which was expressed in a letter Clinton has sent to al-Asad.

Concluding its analysis, the paper says: Recent developments in southern Lebanon were masterminded by the United States and the Zionist entity. They were aimed at making the Arabs succumb to the repressive law, which stipulates that might makes right, the only law reigning supreme in the U.S. new world order.

UN Team Concludes Camera Mission, Departs 5 Aug

NC0508100293 Paris AFP in English 0828 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 5 (AFP)—U.N. experts left here Thursday [5 August] after a "successful" mission to install surveillance cameras at missile test sites under a deal which averted U.S.-led air strikes on Iraq.

Team leader Bill Eckert said the mission "has been completed successfully, the cameras have been installed."

The United States threatened to carry out air raids last month when Iraq blocked the installation of the cameras.

The crisis was defused when the United Nations struck a deal with Iraq under which the cameras would be put in place but not switched on until high level technical talks in New York scheduled for the end of August or early September.

Six cameras were installed at the al-Yawm al-'Azim and Rafah [place name as received] missile test sites 60 kilometres (40 miles) south of Baghdad. The United Nations wants to ensure that Iraq does not revive its ballistic missile programme, which was outlawed under Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

"We have transmitted pictures to our operation center in Baghdad through dedicated lines provided by the Iraqi Government," Eckert said. "There was hard work by everyone involved—both sides worked to succeed and we have succeeded."

"As agreed, the cameras will not be activated other than for maintenance purposes until the technical talks," in New York, he said.

Inspectors would make occasional visits to the sites and attend any test firing of short range missiles, which Iraq has been allowed to keep, he said.

"The working relationship was excellent, everything that we asked to be done was done very quickly and very responsively," Eckert said as his team headed for al-Habbaniyah Airport, from where they were flying to regional U.N. headquarters in Bahrain.

Message to UN Protests Sanctions Committee Decisions

JN0408163693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] New York, 4 Aug (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq, recently sent a message to the UN secretary general on the decisions of the Sanctions Committee during its 95th session. The message was distributed in New York yesterday as a Security Council official document. Following is the text of the Iraqi foreign minister's message:

I have the honor referring to my message, dated 24 June 1993, in which I expressed our view on the decisions issued in the name of the Sanctions Committee—which was formed in accordance with Security Council Resolution 661—during its 94th session.

After taking stock of the decisions made in the committee's name during its 95th session, I found that I am obliged to again address you about this issue. After following every meeting of this committee, I, together with every fair-minded person who is aware of the working methods and resolutions of the committee, have become certain that the premeditated political motives and anti-Iraq intentions that are harbored by some permanent members of the Security Council, govern the work of the committee and impose on it the method of selectivity. This is done to achieve a premeditated purpose, represented by tightening the embargo imposed on the patient Iraqi people, without considering the basic needs and suffering of the Iraqi people.

During this meeting, the representatives of the United States, Britain, and France have rejected requests for things which are part of the civilian and basic requirements for the daily life of the Iraqi people. This requires that you reexamine the work of this committee. We hope you will intervene to end the unjust interpretation and implementation which has been applied by the representatives of these three states to the UN Security Council resolutions concerning economic sanctions on Iraq. Listed below are examples of the requests rejected by the three representatives at this meeting:

1. The U.S. representative objected to a request to export to Iraq 200 tonnes of polyester and acrylic threads used in textile industry on the pretext that they are a raw material used in industry. The truth is that this material is used in civilian industries exclusively for the purpose for which they have been imported. There is no paragraph in the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq which bans the importation of raw material for use in civilian or textile industries.

2. The British representative's objection to exporting 300 units of polyvinyl chloride for a government hospital on the pretext that they are intended for a private hospital is void of any legal basis because both government and private hospitals provide necessary services to all Iraqi citizens. The British objection can only be interpreted to mean that the British are seeking the collapse of the health sector. Your Excellency knows that medicine is not the only treatment to save patients, particularly children, the old, and the weak in general. There is a series of other necessary medical supplies which we should also be able to secure.

3. [Words indistinct] 103 coils of the (?panels) of [words indistinct] al-Fajr steel plant on the pretext that they are constituents in the [word indistinct]. When the Moroccan delegate pointed out that they are intended for food industries, and that the committee must adopt a flexible attitude, and after seeing that Djibouti's representative supported the Moroccan position, the American delegate said that their eventual destination could not be determined.

This order consists of materials of a humanitarian nature. Their availability is essential for food and health services that are indispensable for any civilized society.

4. The British representative objected to the export of 54 [words indistinct] cables for [name indistinct] importers. Defending his objections, the British delegate said he was unconvinced that the eventual destinations of these materials were schools and hospitals. This is an indiscriminate kind of objection aimed at blocking any order for goods used to meet civilian humanitarian needs, ignoring the fact that these are an interlinked series of services, materials, and equipment.

5. The British delegate objected to the export of 25,935 tonnes of chemical cement additives to the al-Ma'mun building materials importers on the pretext that they will go into the manufacture of building materials. The Moroccan delegate commented that building houses is a humanitarian need and urged the committee to show flexibility. Your Excellency is surely aware that no Security Council resolution bars Iraq from manufacturing building materials for housing, which is a basic humanitarian need for the Iraqis. Raising objections to orders of a civilian nature can only be designed to create substantial structural imbalances in the economic and social fabric of the Iraqi society in order to serve premeditated political ends.

6. The British representative objected to the export of 15,000 tonnes of steel bars to the importer Akkad Trading Agency in Baghdad on the pretext that such bars are multipurpose. When the Moroccan representative indicated that this material will be used for the construction of residential buildings, the British representative did not change his position.

7. The U.S. representative objected to the export of 66 containers of granite for use at hospitals and health centers and for a government health department on the pretext that it is not an essential material. This material is a finished product used for aesthetic purposes at medical institutions. Had the U.S. representative put aside his preconceived political considerations, he would have not objected to this and other materials that help the Iraqi people live in accordance with contemporary human requirements.

Your Excellency: The aforementioned examples of the committee's rejection of the export of humanitarian and civilian natural materials during its 95th meeting proves beyond any doubt that the embargo is designed to destroy Iraqi society in a premeditated and systematic fashion, and is rooted in motives which contradict human norms, values, and laws. We must interpret the insistence of the representatives of the United States, Britain, and France on rejecting many of the requests without convincing justifications or legal basis, as a political reprisal by those three states against the people of Iraq.

Please distribute this message as a UN Security Council document.

Please accept our best regards.

[Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

Airspace 'Violations' Protested to Arab League, UN

Foreign Minister on U-2 Flights

JN0408124193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] New York, 4 Aug (INA)—Iraq has condemned the unjustifiable violations of its airspace by the U.S. U-2 spy plane. The plane was operating under the guise of performing an aerial survey for the UN Special Commission. The plane flew to Iraq from its air base in Saudi Arabia.

This condemnation came in a letter Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf sent to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

In the letter, Iraq reiterated its well-known position on the issue; that is, that this plane is being used for purposes other than those mandated by the UN Security Council, and that its activities undermine Iraq's sovereignty and security.

The letter indicated that the U.S. U-2 spy plane violated Iraq's airspace on 18, 21, and 29 July, flying to Iraq from its air base in Saudi Arabia. The letter added that the plane's overflights, which lasted several hours, were centered over large areas in central, northern, western, and southern Iraq. After each flight, the letter noted, the plane returned to its base in Saudi territory.

The letter said that counting these three violations, the plane has been used to commit a total of 151 airspace violations.

30-31 Jul Incidents

JN0408123593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League General Secretariat that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers continue to provide facilities for U.S., British, and French aircraft which are used to violate Iraqi airspace. The planes fly from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and seriously jeopardize Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace on 30-31 July, conducting 117 hostile air sorties.

The Iraqi delegate enclosed with his letter a list detailing these violations, and requested that the letter be circulated among Arab League members so that they may learn of these regrettable incidents.

1 Aug Incidents

JN0508102593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Aug (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers have continued to provide facilities for U.S., British, and French aircraft which are used to violate Iraqi airspace, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He noted that this activity seriously jeopardizes Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter addressed to the Arab League secretary general, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace on 1 August, and that they carried out 39 hostile air sorties on that date.

The Iraqi delegate enclosed with his letter a list detailing these violations, and requested that the letter be circulated among Arab League members so that they may learn of these regrettable incidents.

Allies 'Harassing' Iraq

JN0508113293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] New York, 5 Aug (INA)—Iraq has lodged a protest with the United Nations over the continued violations of Iraqi airspace violations committed by U.S. aircraft which are sent for the purposes of carrying out surveillance, harassing Iraq, and dropping flares on Iraqi territory.

In a memorandum of protest addressed to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali yesterday, Iraq said that during the period 27 July-2 August, these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace in various areas over northern and southern Iraq. During that period, they carried out 469 air sorties.

The memorandum added: On 27 July, a U.S. TR-1 reconnaissance plane violated Iraqi airspace over northern Iraq—over Mosul, Dahuk, Tall 'Afar, and Zakho—before heading back for Turkey. Another U.S. reconnaissance plane of the same type violated Iraqi airspace over southern Iraq—over al-Basrah, al-Qurnah, al-Shatrah, al-'Amarah, Qal'at Salih, and al-Rumaythah—on 31 July. Afterward, the plane headed for Kuwait, flying over southern Artawi.

The memorandum went on to say: On 2 August, a U.S. F-16 plane dropped a flare over the Qarah Qush area in the Ninawa Governorate in northern Iraq.

Trade Minister on Ration System, Kurdistan

JN0408162993 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 31 Jul 93 p 7

[Interview with Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih by Ghazi al-'Ayyash; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-'Ayyash] Do you believe the local market is affected by the talks with the United Nations and their results?

[Salih] Of course it is. Our citizens have recently gained experience in market conditions. I believe citizens understand how the market reacts.

When there was a possibility our country would suffer from aggression, the reaction was as follows:

1. The dollar rose against the Iraqi dinar;

2. There was an increase in demand in response to a fear of expected price hikes;

3. The volume of commodities offered for sale suffered from continued decline in expectation of higher prices.

This picture changed dramatically in a short period when there was a change in the situation and a relaxation of the crisis, and the reverse of the earlier situation occurred: There was a decline in the dollar exchange rate against the Iraqi dinar. A stronger dinar means bigger purchasing power abroad and at home, and, consequently, cheaper imports.

The other factor was the decline in demand. In other words, purchasers disappeared from the market, hoping for a new decline of prices. If the purchaser expects prices to decline, why buy today? As for merchants, they offer for sale what they have, for fear of a steady drop in prices. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Ayyash] Is there any intention to introduce other commodities into the ration system, or to increase some rations?

[Salih] When we resume normal importation, there will definitely be large-scale changes in this respect.

[Al-'Ayyash] A change or a cancellation?

[Salih] I believe we will still need the ration system after the lifting of the blockade. The reason is economic, and is linked to the state's care for its citizens. The Food and Agricultural Organizations referred to this fact when it said 99 percent of the cost of the ration system is covered by the state.

But, if the ration system is cancelled and prices remain very low, then there will be a flood of our commodities into international markets, accompanied by inhuman exploitation. This would require the state to pump in more commodities to balance the market. I do not think the state will adopt such a policy.

Food prices are very low. To keep them low, we must maintain a system for providing commodities with low prices in accordance with the ration system. You remember that before the siege our food used to go to neighboring countries; some of it was used as fodder. Even rice was used as animal fodder.

The ration system will continue after the blockade is lifted to protect the citizens.

[Al-'Ayyash] You have signed contracts with Italian firms to purchase foodstuffs worth $600 million. Have such contracts been implemented?

[Salih] No. Some of the signed contracts are linked to our still frozen assets.

When we sign contracts, the United States and other countries always try to prevent Iraq from using its assets. When Resolution 778 was issued late last year, they blocked the assets used to finance such contracts. However, we do not show all the cards on which we are currently working.

[Al-'Ayyash] In such cases, would the company inform you?

[Salih] We know, because we follow up on things, and also because this is a contract which was signed and has already expired.

[Al-'Ayyash] Are there any contracts with U.S., German, or French companies?

[Salih] Yes, our agreements with these states are based on our frozen assets. At the beginning of this year, the U.S. companies offered contracts through their offices abroad because the U.S. law still prevents U.S. companies from exporting food and medicine to Iraq. This conflicts with the UN Security Council resolution which allows Iraq to buy medicine and food. However, these contracts have not been executed.

[Al-'Ayyash] This means European and other companies have a desire to deal commercially with Iraq?

[Salih] You know that companies have their own interests, and their main objective is to sell their products to the market. They have an opportunity to sell their products now. This is business. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Ayyash] Foreign news agencies carried reports indicating that there is a semi-starvation in northern Iraq.

[Salih] In fact, supplies for the northern region remain as they were. We still supply the region with scheduled shipments of foodstuffs. Food is allocated for the areas we can reach in the northern region; areas which are under the state's administrative control. There are no problems in these areas. Citizens there receive their rations in full. These areas include the Fa'idah and Makhmur districts, parts of the city of Irbil, Dahuk, and al- Sulaymaniyah. These areas are within the range of our work. Distributors and citizens receive their rations just as the people in Baghdad. However, in the areas under the control of the saboteurs, we have nobody there except some of our old employees who live in these areas. They come and receive their quotas on a daily basis. Their cars leave the area loaded with food. However, what they do with them? Most of their food is stolen by the saboteurs because in the market the price of food is high, but the price is low when they are received from the state. So, they take them and sell them in the market. Consequently, this food does not reach our citizens.

There are Kurds who came and settled in the neighboring areas. We gave them temporary cards until they return to their areas.

[Al-'Ayyash] Are there any external problems concerning trade? Is movement with Turkey still limited?

[Salih] Yes, there are problems, and movement with Turkey is still limited. There are several reasons for this. In general, we can now use dollars to purchase goods through Turkey. They tax anything that comes from Turkey to northern Iraq. They also take part of the imported quantity. For example, from a truck which carries 20 sacks, they take one sack. So, the more you import, the more they take. Food is available, and the passage to the northern regions comes from Turkey through Dahuk, where prices are cheaper. [passage omitted]

Christopher Said To Have Secret Meeting With al-Husayni

TA0508144293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that before meeting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher secretly met this morning with Faysal al-Husayni.

Sources in East Jerusalem said that during the meeting, al-Husayni received clarifications on Washington's position on the U.S. declaration of principles, previously submitted to the parties, and on the proposed transfer of some of the Civil Administration's powers to the Palestinian leadership in the territories.

Members of the Palestinian delegation refused to confirm that such a meeting between al-Husayni and Secretary of State Christopher had indeed taken place.

Rabin Said Seeking Clarifications From Syrians

TA0508051993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Aug 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpts] Political sources in Jerusalem believe that in their meeting in Damascus yesterday, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad provided U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher with some elementary tools to promote the political process. [passage omitted]

Christopher left Jerusalem bearing very carefully formulated questions, the result of Israeli-U.S. consultations. Political elements said last night that the questions were not hypothetical: They referred to the Syrian position on peace and stated that Israel wants the information regardless of the Syrian stand on the withdrawal issue. The Syrians were given similar questions on various issues, including future security arrangements on the Golan Heights.

Al-Asad was asked to answer the questions, and at the same time, to approve the method of clarifying the parties' stands through questions via the U.S. intermediary. "The Syrian president was requested to reply to substantive questions and to approve a procedure for the clarification of the parties' stands," an element close to the negotiations said last night.

The element added that Rabin had relayed a message to al-Asad through Christopher saying that if he agrees to launch the procedure on the clarification of stands, Rabin will reward him by not quitting the ongoing process. Under the U.S. plan, the U.S. mediation stage is to continue for about four months. After that, a decision will be made regarding the next steps. One of the possible measures to be considered will be personal intervention by President Bill Clinton.

If progress is achieved in one of the spheres under discussion between Israel and Syria, such as the principles of the Golan Heights security arrangements, the Washington peace talks will be reconvened to allow the sides to discuss details. Political elements stressed last night that if the U.S. mediation efforts yield no progress, there will be a slim chance of the peace talks reconvening.

It is believed in Jerusalem, however, that since the entire idea of a mediation tour had been al-Asad's initiative, to which Rabin agreed, al-Asad did not leave Christopher empty-handed in their conversation in Damascus yesterday.

It was speculated in Jerusalem last night that al-Asad sought to hear from Christopher to what extent the United States would be willing to guarantee full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. The sources said the United States would refuse to undertake that task. They noted that in talks with Israelis, the Americans occasionally reiterate that they have never voiced support for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Beilin Believes 'Mixed Format' Good for Talks

TA0508105093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0920 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister by Gay Zohar—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Hello, Dr. Beilin.

[Beilin] Hello.

[Zohar] Can we sense a smile in your greeting?

[Beilin] Yes, to a certain extent.

[Zohar] What is the good news?

[Beilin] The good news is that there is American involvement. It is my feeling that there is great interest by all the sides Christopher has met so far—he is now going to Jordan—to keep that involvement up and continue it, and that is the most important thing.

[Zohar] Of course, the question is whether there is substance to that declaration?

[Beilin] I do not think anything will happen in a single meeting or in two meetings. It is a process, not of years, but also not such a short process, during which there is room for very positive developments.

[Zohar] Did we receive any clarifications about what type of peace the Syrians want?

[Beilin] Again, I cannot say that they volunteered to transmit a full picture, but we can say that Christopher left the talks encouraged, and that is sufficiently important.

[Zohar] Did he tell us that he left encouraged?

[Beilin] If you ask me, it is enough that he says that he is encouraged. If he is encouraged it means his mission will continue, and if that happens, I believe it will have a positive outcome.

[Zohar] Will the mission continue, or will the level of the talks be raised?

[Beilin] You mean the direct talks?

[Zohar] Yes.

[Beilin] No, I do not think the level of the talks will be raised at this stage, although we are, of course, interested in that happening. I think that what will happen from now on is that, on one hand, there will be a continuation of the direct talks in Washington in their present format, and, on the other hand, there will be a continuation of the American involvement in the same setup—with the secretary of state or Dennis Ross, but more intensively—and that mixed format definitely bodes well for success at this stage.

[Zohar] In other words, there are details we are not being told, and they are responsible for the good feeling?

[Beilin] Yes, although I do not think there are deep secrets behind it. The process is undoubtedly not very fast, but there are U.S. reasons for continuing it, and that is, of course, important.

[Zohar] We waited for a Christopher declaration that would show us something about the continuation of the talks. You say that the visits will be more frequent. We know that he will be in Brussels Sunday [8 August], so his mission ends this week. When will he return?

[Beilin] He did not say. But I suppose he has enough reasons to return, and he will decide when to do so. I hope the gaps between visits will not be too long because that can always cool the atmosphere, which is currently good for progress in the peace process and for U.S. involvement. I would strike while the iron is hot.

[Zohar] That includes the Palestinians?

[Beilin] There will be an additional meeting on the Palestinians after he returns from Jordan. As far as I know, the first meeting was not too encouraging, but I would not understand from that that they have no interest in a political process and in U.S. involvement. They do have such an interest and I hope the second meeting today will be better than the first.

[Zohar] In other words, the first part of our talks with him were only on the Syrian issue ?

[Beilin] Yes, on Syria and Lebanon. The Jordanian issue has not been raised at all yet. And on the Palestinian track, the first meeting was not too successful, and I hope the second will be better.

Meeting Between Sarid, PLO Official in Cairo Reported

TA0508043493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid and Knesset Member Dedi Zucker, both of the Meretz bloc, met a few days ago in Cairo with a senior PLO official. Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic correspondent says the meeting took place with the knowledge of Prime Minister Rabin and that the prime minister received a report afterward on the discussion. The meeting was kept secret; even the Israeli Embassy in Cairo did not know about it. It is the highest-level Israeli meeting with a senior PLO official, although it is known that the PLO official was not Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. In response, Minister Sarid said he had nothing to say about the meeting.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 5 Aug adds in a report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz: "The prime minister's spokesman Gad Ben-'Ari says that the meeting was not coordinated with Mr. Rabin, but when I told him that it was held with Rabin's knowledge, and that he had prior knowledge of the meeting, the spokesman said such meetings cannot be prevented since the law does not ban them," but "he did not deny the meeting."]

Shetrit Criticizes Meeting

TA0508062393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Opposition has been voiced inside Labor to the reported meeting between Meretz Environment Minister Yosi Surid and Knesset Member Dedi Zucker with a senior PLO official in Cairo several days ago with the knowledge of the prime minister, who later received a report on the meeting. Economics and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit said the meeting was a grave mistake and harmed Israel's most serious interests. Although there have been meetings with the PLO in the past, in Shetrit's view, Israel must not do what even the Americans are avoiding. According to Minister Shetrit, Labor institutions have to be convened in order to decide whether the government should hold contacts at a senior level with the PLO.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu accused Prime Minister Rabin of a sinister act. He said that in the past the prime minister made a commitment not to talk with the PLO, and yet has just sneaked a political coup following the Lebanon operation when the Knesset is in recess.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 5 August carries a report by Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck, who had spoken on the phone "a few minutes ago" with the PLO's Nabil Sha'th in Cairo. Beck says: "Sha'th was very surprised that the meeting between him and Minister Sarid has been reported. He avoided officially confirming the fact that the meeting took place. All he was prepared to tell us was that he had

decided that in principle he would not refer publicly to reports about meetings between himself and Israelis whoever they may be."]

Rabin Aide Comments

TA0508142793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's adviser, refuses to confirm or deny a report that he met Minister Yosi Sarid and Knesset Member [MK] Dedi Zucker in Cairo. According to Sha'th the reports on the meeting reflect the controversy within the Israeli Government regarding negotiations with the PLO. Sha'th said that if the Israelis want to hold direct talks with the PLO, they must say so publicly.

Earlier the prime minister's bureau stated that whether Mr. Rabin knew about this meeting or not—even if such a meeting was held—does not mean it was done on his behalf or by his initiative. Prime Minister Rabin's media adviser emphasized that the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians are being conducted only between the delegations, and with U.S. help as part of the Madrid agreements.

Foreign Ministry: King Husayn Against Confederation

TA0308140793 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 93 p 2

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] King Husayn is not interested in significant progress in talks on Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. This is the assessment of Foreign Ministry circles who have analyzed the issue.

According to the Foreign Ministry assessment, the idea of confederation is occasionally raised at the negotiating table, but it does not look as though progress will be made, because the PLO is mainly interested in implementing the right of self-determination, whereas King Husayn is not interested in turning Jordan into a Palestinian state.

Justice Ministry Rejects U.S. Ruling on Demjanjuk

TA0408190693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Excerpt] The Justice Ministry says the ruling by a U.S. court of appeals that John Demjanjuk should be released and returned to the United States does not legally bind Israel. A Justice Ministry announcement added only that a week from today, on 11 August, the attorney general will announce whether Israel intends to retry Demjanjuk or immediately deport him. [passage omitted]

Arab Killed Near Bethlehem; 'Terrorists' Sentenced

TA0408144993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] 'Ali Ahmad Shaja'iyah, a 19-year-old resident of al-Duhayshah refugee camp, near Bethlehem, was killed this afternoon while preparing an explosive charge.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the camp was suddenly rocked by a powerful explosion, after which the security forces spotted a mortally wounded man. Bomb disposal experts subsequently determined that an attempt had been made to prepare an explosive charge. The injured man was evacuated to a hospital in Bethlehem where he later died of his wounds. The incident is still being investigated.

The Gaza military court sentenced the two killers of Yehezqel Avraham, an Israeli greengrocer who was murdered in Khan Yunus six months ago, to unusually long jail terms. Isma'il Musa Bakhit was given 12 consecutive life sentences, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Masri received three life sentences.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the two terrorists belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's Red Eagle gang. They were also convicted of murdering Arab residents they suspected of cooperating with Israel, and of attempting to murder additional people. Al-Masri was also convicted of carrying out attacks on the security forces.

New Commander of West Bank IDF Troops Assumes Duties

TA0508113493 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Aug 93 p 2

[Report by Roni Shaqed and Dani Sade]

[Excerpts] As of yesterday, Brigadier General Sha'ul Mufaz is the new commander of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in Judaea and Samaria. He replaces Brig. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, who will be assigned another position.

Mufaz, 45, married and a father of two, immigrated from Iran in 1957. He graduated from the agricultural school in Nahalal, and has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Bar Ilan University. [passage omitted]

In his last assignment, he was commander of the Galil formation.

Christopher Meets With King Husayn, al-Majali

King Expresses Hope for Peace

JN0508144193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held a joint news conference at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon.

At the beginning of the news conference, His Majesty King Husayn stated his hope that a just, lasting, comprehensive, and honorable peace that restores to the Palestinians their legitimate rights will be achieved in the Middle East. The U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region, he added, is another chance to discuss U.S. proposals regarding peace in the Middle East.

For his part, the U.S. secretary of state said that during his current tour of Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Israel, he has sensed a desire to work to establish peace in the Middle East. He indicated that the major objective of his current tour is to activate the peace process and to resume the talks between the parties concerned.

Earlier this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received the U.S. secretary of state at the Royal Hashemite Court. They discussed topics related to the Middle East peace process.

Representing the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sat'an al-Hasan. The delegation accompanying Mr. Christopher attended for the U.S. side.

Obstacles to Peace Process Discussed

JN0508134193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Official talks between the Jordanians, led by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and the U.S. side, led by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, began at the Prime Ministry at 1400 today.

The talks dealt with the results of the U.S. secretary of state's current tour of the region. The two sides also exchanged views on developments in the Middle East peace process, both its bilateral and multilateral parts, as well as ways to overcome obstacles that hamper the peace process.

For the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar, information minister; Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Husayn Hamami, Foreign Ministry secretary general.

Attending the talks for the U.S. side were Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the peace negotiations; Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs; Martin Indyk, special assistant to the U.S. President for Near Eastern affairs; and Douglas Keene, attache at the U.S. Embassy in Amman.

The talks were interrupted by a working luncheon hosted by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. The luncheon was attended by the members of the Jordanian and U.S. participants in the talks.

Al-Majali: No Solution Without Return of Jerusalem

JN0508110693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Aug 93 pp 1, 21

[By Lima Nabil]

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said: Our participation in the peace process is a basic issue and we believe that negotiatings are a means to regain our rights. He added: We will continue the peace march out of our true desire to achieve peace. However, we will not reach a final solution that does not include Jerusalem.

In statements to AL-RA'Y and JORDAN TIMES, Dr. al-Majali said that no Arab or Muslim will accept a solution that does not include the return of Jersualem as a basic point in the solution.

Dr. al-Majali said that we want a peace that can prevent provocative military attacks such as the latest one against southern Lebanon. We will negotiate in order to prevent these attacks in the future and put an end to Israel's behavior in the occupied territories. We are totally convinced of our rights and believe that negotiations are a means to regain our rights.

Dr. al-Majali said: One of the basic points of the agenda on which agreement was reached was our right to the occupied land and water. This is a very serious matter because the 1967 war was a war over water, and many did not realize that. Another basic point is that we are a country hosting the largest number of refugees in the world and this matter should be solved, and we should not be the target of aggression.

Al-Majali added: We stand by the Palestinian side in order to prevent any delays. We believe that the refugee issue should be solved, Resolution 242 should be applied on the Palestinian track, and Israel must withdraw from the occupied territories. We will not sign a treaty before the Palestinians' succeed in obtaining what they want. This depends on the other Arab parties. We will not sign a separate agreement.

On Jordan's relations with the Arab countries, especially the Gulf states, Dr. al-Majali said: We extend our hand to our brothers out of respect. We know that differences may occur between brothers, whether because of misinterpretation or interference of elements that flourish on differences. We have the best intentions toward all brothers, but not at the expense of our dignity.

Describing relations with Iraq, Dr. al-Majali said: We support the Iraqi people and unity of Iraq. We also support freedom and democracy, and do not allow ourselves to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs just as we hope no one would interfere in our affairs. Jordan is Iraq's lifeline, and Iraq is our strategic depth. We believe that the Iraqi people do not deserve this punishment.

Dr. al-Majali denied that a decision has been made to amend the elections law. This will not be done without presenting the elections law for dialogue and to the cabinet.

Report Said To Show Deterioration in King's Health

TA0408115193 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 4 Aug 93 p 2

[Report by Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpt] A confidential medical report on Jordan's King Husayn's health over the past several months, compiled by his American doctors, states: There has been a significant deterioration in the king's condition. Cancerous cells, located and removed from his urinary canal, have spread to his internal organs. The report has reached Israeli defense elements who follow the king's medical condition with concern.

An Israeli source last week confirmed the data. According to that source, there is serious fear for the king's life. This type of cancer leaves the patient with only a 20 percent chance to live more than a year. Expert physicians who received the data included in the U.S. medical report told the defense elements that when cancerous cells in the urinary canal spread fast to the internal digesting organs, 80 percent of the patients die within six to 12 months. [passage omitted]

Conference To Approve Election Law Expected

JN0508072993 Amman THE STAR in English 5-11 Aug 93 p 1

["Special to the STAR" by Ahmad Shakir]

[Text] A 1000 delegate national conference will be called upon to convene by His Majesty King Husayn to approve a temporary election law by the end of the month or beginning of next month after the King dissolved Parliament on Wednesday [4 August], informed sources told The STAR.

The delegates, representing political parties, unions, trade and industry chambers, municipality heads and prominent politicians and intellectuals, will be asked to adopt a draft legislation to replace the current election law, the sources added.

The draft, to be presented by the Government to King Husayn within the coming days, will take into consideration all the legislative, social and political developments that had shaped the country during the last four years, in addition to rectifying any Constitutional contradictions in the present law. It is certain that the new law will replace the present electoral system with regard to the number of votes, number of deputies for each district and the legal age of the voter. The sources said that the new law will probably limit the number of ballots for each voter to two. Meanwhile, the Government has set Monday 8 November as election day for the Lower House of Parliament.

The sources expected voting to reach record levels since 1.5 million people will be eligible to vote in the November elections.

King Husayn Urges Ministers To Ensure Free Elections

JN0408175793 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn told cabinet members concerned about the forthcoming elections to maintain the highest degree of impartiality, honesty, and ability in order to enable all citizens to make their free choice in selecting the House of Representatives.

This was reported in a statement by the information minister after a cabinet meeting, chaired in part by his majesty the king, and attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

The information minister said his majesty was briefed by the interior minister on voter registration results, in addition to all matters related to clean, just, and accurate elections. The minister said his majesty the king briefed the cabinet on the outcome of his visit to the United Kingdom, France, and Turkey.

Editorial: Election Law Unlikely To Meet Expectations

JN0508095293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Aug 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Collective Effort for Democracy"]

[Text] The Royal Decree that was issued yesterday dissolving the Lower House of Parliament, and the subsequent decision by the prime minister to set Nov. 8 as election day, clears the way for the government to amend the current Election Law and for candidates to start their campaigns in earnest.

His Majesty the King had on many occasions called for ensuring that any amendment to the law be constitutional and democratic. But judging by information available, the changes to the law are likely to introduce a one-person-one-vote formula without changing the number of constituencies or abolishing quotas for minorities. This means that the expected amendments would fall short of the expectations of many democratically enthusiastic Jordanians. The formula of one-person-one-vote without dividing the Kingdom into equally-populated constituencies defies the purpose of

ensuring each Jordanian equal voting power. Additionally the allocation of seats for minorities and bedouins also runs counter to genuine democratic practices and the concept of equality among Jordanians enshrined in the Constitution. Under the system of quotas ethnic, religious and tribal affiliations can only be strengthened and deepened. And if, as is being speculated, 18-year-old Jordanians will continue to be denied the rights to vote then a wide segment of politically active youth will be excluded and as such they will not have much faith in our fledgling democracy.

Furthermore, apart from the debate that His Majesty the King held with his council, the Upper House, very little dialogue has been conducted nationwide, least of all between the government and the different political parties.

The issue of bypassing Parliament remains controversial, and it also could be argued that a new temporary law should not be enacted since no compelling circumstances, as stipulated by the Constitution, exist for introducing it.

But having said all that, and although we feel that the anticipated changes to the law will still fall short of the expectations of many Jordanians, we believe that no political group should boycott the elections. in this vein, we should all remember that the 11th Parliament was itself elected according to an amended law, with that amendment being itself temporary. It is therefore equally valid to contend that the current law besides being arguably unconstitutional, is also undemocratic.

While we hope that the 12th parliament will be more representative we hope that all political parties and all candidates would campaign on the platform of improving democratic institutions and democratic tools during the coming four years. After all this is an infant democracy that thrives in a polluted regional environment. Nursing and nurturing it will be neither easy nor smooth. It requires the participation and goodwill of all to make it work.

Brotherhood: Options Open After Dissolution

JN0508092893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Aug 93 pp 1,5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Muslim Brotherhood leaders, taken by surprise by the decision Wednesday [4 August] to dissolve Parliament, have said they would postpone any action until the study changes which they expect to be introduced to the current Election Law.

"We were surprised by yesterday's developments. We did not expect things to move so fast," said Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, leader of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and a leading figure in the Brotherhood movement.

Another Brotherhood deputy, who preferred anonymity, confirmed that his group was surprised by the dissolution of Parliament, and said: "We believed that elections would actually be held under the current law."

The Brotherhood—the largest and most influential bloc in Parliament and the most organised political group in the Kingdom—strongly opposes changing the current law since it feels it is targeted by the change.

"We oppose the mechanism of any changes to the current law since laws have to pass through Parliament and we also reject the timing." "More time is needed to change an important law in order to result in democratic amendments and changes." Brotherhood Deputy Hamzah Mansur said.

Although Brotherhood leaders had earlier agreed with other political groups that the current law required amendments such as reducing the age of voters from 19 to 18, and cancelling Article 18 of the law which bans illegal political party members from running for elections and even to the idea of introducing a one-person-one-vote-principle. They always insisted that any change should be approved by Parliament.

Observers said this was their tactic to buy time so that elections would be held under the current law, leaving the debate over changes put off for the next Parliament.

Dr. al-Farhan told the Jordan Times the IAF would now "seriously study the new developments before we can officially announce our position."

A Brotherhood deputy said the IAF—dominated by the Brotherhood—was keeping its options open.

"If we feel that we have been targetted by these changes, we will decide accordingly how to react," the deputy said.

Many Brotherhood members feel that changing the Election Law would be aimed at reducing the influence of the Islamic movement in the next Parliament because they would oppose a Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement that they say is expected within the next six months. But some Brotherhood deputies argued that changing the law in order to pass a peace agreement was "unnecessary."

"Despite our influence in Parliament, we were unable to gather more than 34 signatures on a statement opposing the current peace process, one Brotherhood deputy said. "But it seems the government wants to pass a peace agreement with a vast majority in Parliament as a show of popular support for the agreement."

Deputy Mansur, blasting the government of Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali, said the government "wants a weak opposition."

Some non-Islamic and secular political figures who criticise the one-person-one-vote formula expressed concern that such a move would have the opposite desired outcome.

An informed politician and a former minister said the Brotherhood "would not be affected much by a new law aimed at reducing the number of Islamic seats in parliament... they would win popular support by playing the role of martyrs."

A Jordanian scholar, Dr. Mustafa Hamarnah said: "If the law is changed now to the one-person-one-vote formula, it would, in my view, represent an unnecessary confrontation with the Islamic Action Front because they perceive it as a move against them being the largest political organisation in the country."

Aware of their strength and influence in the country, the Brotherhood threatened earlier to boycott the next elections to protest the government's "intention" to change the law without passing through Parliament.

For months the Brotherhood conducted heated internal debates over the best course of action in case the government went ahead with the change. According to sources inside the Brotherhood, the debates led to the emergence of real disputes and differences of opinion between the so-called "moderates" and "hardliners" in the movement.

The "moderates," keen on sending strong signals of protest to the government, have called for boycotting elections. According to supporters of this view, the Brotherhood would both avoid a confrontation with the regime and maintain its credibility with its hardline grassroots.

The "hardliners" on the other hand, prefer to respond to what they perceive as an intended confrontation initiated by the government. By entering elections in full force and with as many candidates as they could in order to prove their strength on the ground and to try to stop any government action that does not fall in line with their beliefs.

Informed Brotherhood sources said the "moderate" point of view finally prevailed, taking into consideration the special status the Brotherhood enjoys in Jordan in view of the international and Arab crackdown on Islamic movements.

Deputy Mansur revealed there were three options debated within the IAF and the Brotherhood: "To participate in elections regardless of the Election Law in full force and with as many Brotherhood candidates; to participate with the minimum number of candidates; or to boycott elections altogether.

All three options are based on convincing arguments, but the first and third options carry more weight in internal debates, Deputy Mansur said.

"Boycotting elections is intended as a message, and proponents of boycotting are concerned with showing that democracy should not be cosmetic. Either we have real democracy or there is no need for a 'democracy' similar to that in other Arab states," he added.

The argument of supporters of contesting elections in full force, who count Deputy Mansur among them, is based on the belief that they should be influential in Parliament in order to succeed in making reforms through democratic means.

Dr. al-Farhan said his group has not decided on any option yet. But a Brotherhood deputy said that it was more likely the Islamic movement would participate in the next elections if the expected changes in the law would not effect them much.

"According to our calculations, the one-person-one-vote formula which would maintain the current division of districts (20), would secure us 15 Parliament seats out of the 17 districts, with the remaining three districts going to tribal representatives," a Brotherhood deputy said.

The movement has been careful in pointing out that regardless of changes to the Election Law, they would still have significant weight in the next Parliament, but mainly through their alliances with other non-Islamic candidates.

Under the current bloc-voting system, voters have as many votes as the number of parliamentary seats assigned for their constituencies. Redrawing the voting precincts, which do not ensure equal parliamentary representation for equal number of voters, is believed to be the most complex process that the government would have had to tackle had it decided to address it in the reported new legislation.

Officials Discuss South, Peace Talks With Christopher

NC0408213393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Our political correspondent has learned that during the talks with the U.S. party today, the Lebanese side explained its position on the events in the south. Lebanon believes that if Israel has political aims and seeks security arrangements to use in the Arab-Israeli talks, this must be rejected and, consequently, the right to resist is legitimate in a homeland whose land is occupied. Lebanon has entered peace talks with Israel to implement Security Council Resolution 425. Lebanon adheres to the Arab constants—primarily, recognition of the Arab people's right to their land according to the UN resolution. What is required is peace talks and not capitulation talks.

The Lebanese-U.S. talks also touched on the Arab-Israeli negotiations. Lebanon stressed its position on the need to move the peace process forward along the principles of the Madrid conference.

Buwayz: Negotiations Require Calm

NC0408212493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Excerpts] At the end of his talks with Lebanese officials in Zahlah this evening, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher stressed that his visit to Lebanon demonstrates U.S. interest in Lebanon, its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and stability, and interest in its participation in the peace process. He described his talks as excellent and said they covered several issues, particularly the talks with President al-Hirawi. He praised al-Hirawi's courage during the recent events. He said: Let me express my compassion for the Lebanese people who were forced out of their homes during the recent events. We have allocated aid to the disaster areas to ensure hospital beds, in addition [as heard] to $11 million. We are acting through other channels to secure aid for Lebanon from other countries.

He urged all parties to comply with the understanding reached. He voiced his hope that the peace process would be reactivated so that these regrettable events may not recur. He expressed hope that the displaced people would return to their homes and that moves will be made quickly to revive the peace process to prevent a recurrence of such events. He said: We support the Lebanese Army deployment in the south, because we feel that the Army can deploy with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL]. He said that UNIFIL will receive support to confront any emergency.

Responding to a question, Christopher said that the Lebanese are interested in resuming the peace process. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz welcomed Christopher's visit. He described the talks as frank and deep and said they would open the way for future talks to stimulate the peace process. He said that the use of south Lebanon as an arena for fighting and for putting pressure on the Arabs must be rejected. He stressed that any progress in the peace talks requires peace, calm, and stability in the land so that we can look to the future. Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] We welcome the U.S. secretary of state in Lebanon. We held useful, frank, and deep talks that may open the way for future talks to stimulate the peace process. Lebanon, which is still committed to the peace process according to the Madrid conference principles, will not be lax in fulfilling its commitments. However, we do not believe that the use of south Lebanon as an arena for fighting and for putting pressure on the Arabs is acceptable. Any progress in the peace talks requires peace, calm, and stability so that we can look forward instead of looking backward and dwelling on disasters.

[Indistinct questions by unidentified correspondents]

[Buwayz] We did not discuss the next round of talks. We only discussed basic and substantial issues relating to the peace process. [end recording]

Junblatt Criticizes Leaders for Meeting Christopher

NC0508140593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Aug 93

[News conference by Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party leader and minister of refugee affairs, on 5 August; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Today we welcome Christopher with open arms. I am speaking about Lebanon. I cannot comment about the position of people outside Lebanon. We welcome Christopher with open arms in Zahlah. We should have invited him to Ba'abda [the presidential palace]. Perhaps after the next round, the next military round [reference to the next Israeli attack on Lebanon], we will welcome him in Ba'abda. Perhaps the people of Juwayya, al-Nabatiyah, Habshit, or Jibshit will receive him next time. Maybe the government officials will receive him there next time around.

We welcome this Mr. Christopher. What can we Arabs do? We do not know how to make war or peace at the right times. We are always behind. Nobody seems to know what Christopher wants from us. At any rate, we have very good tabbulah and fattush [Lebanese salads], and Zahlah is a beautiful place. The al-Bardawni River is there, with its rushing clear water.

We in the ministry, the relief committee, Elie Hubayqah, Marwan Hamadah, we are all ready here with our sponges and canned foods. Marwan has tons of medicine piled up, and I do not know what Elie Hubayqah has stockpiled in his ministry. We are ready for the next round so we can everything needed. [laughs] Unfortunately, it is a tragicomedy.

At least there should have been a dignified stand, a position of silence. It is actually astounding. Mr. Faris Buwayz stuns me with his positions. How much can we advance or delay the talks? In the first place, how much can we in Lebanon offer or not offer for the talks? Nothing. We said yes to Resolution 425, and that is enough. Is it necessary for us to receive Christopher now, when the blood of the martyrs in the south has not yet dried? Is it necessary for us to welcome him now? Do they not have a sense of right and wrong, the beloved president and the beloved son-in-law [reference to Faris Buwayz, who is President al-Hirawi's son-in-law]? Why should we receive Christopher? I apologize to Nabih Birri; I do not address these words to him. Mr. Nabih should not think that I am referring to him. These words are addressed to us all as Lebanese. [passage omitted]

Tehran Reports Interview With Hizballah Leader

NC0508123793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] A week of extensive attacks by the Zionist regime on the various areas in Lebanon ended at the beginning of this week without the achievement of Tel Aviv's declared objectives. With the subsiding of the flames of war in Lebanon, some major issues are being discussed in political circles regarding the situation in Lebanon, among them the continued anti-Zionist resistance and the performance of the resistance forces in southern Lebanon.

The Western mass media is seeking to project the impression that, on the basis of some covert agreements, certain limitations have been imposed on anti-Zionist operations in southern Lebanon and that from now on the resistance's role will be reduced in Lebanon.

The presence of the Lebanese Armed Forces in southern parts of the country and Hizballah's attitude on this issue, as well as the problem of reconstruction in the area hit by the week-long attacks by the Zionist regime, are among the other topics related to the developments in Lebanon. In an exclusive interview with Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the secretary general of the Lebanese Hizballah, our correspondent in Beirut has sought his opinions on the aforementioned topics: The outcome of this savage onslaught by the usurpist Jerusalem regime on southern Lebanon has resulted in 600 people martyred and wounded and the destruction of 3,000 houses. This military attack, which displaced half a million residents of southern Lebanon, was aimed at eliminating the resistance of the Lebanese people and exerting pressure on the Lebanese Government.

Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the secretary general of the Hizballah revolutionary movement, commented on the failure of the enemy's sinister plot in an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit in Beirut. He said:

[Begin recording] [Nasrallah, in Arabic] As far as the resistance is concerned, I do not think anybody is calling or working for putting restrictions on it in order to transform it into something else. Should this happen, the resistance would turn into media resistance.

[Announcer's Persian translation] The resistance has the backing of the people and the government and is far stronger than before. With such a backing, the resistance will continue on its path until the occupying enemy's forces are driven out. Reports on restrictions on the resistance are merely baseless and malicious rumors. Regarding the deployment of Lebanese Armed Forces units in the villages in southern Lebanon, I should state:

[Nasrallah, in Arabic] Confronting the occupation army and, accordingly, the villages that the Lebanese Army wants to enter are Lebanese villages. [sentence as heard] The Lebanese Army can enter any village. Once the military nature of the situation disappears and the state of alert and caution ends, it will be natural.

[Announcer's Persian translation] Hizballah sees no obstacles for the Lebanese Army to enter wherever it wishes and to assume the task of safeguarding security.

Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah added: I request that all the Islamic and Arabic governments quickly assist the people of Lebanon and participate in the reconstruction of the war-damaged areas and in remaining steadfast before the usurpist enemy. The Zionist regime and the United States will certainly strive to reap political capital from this military attack and to motivate the Arab countries, especially Lebanon, to make more concessions to the Zionist regime. From the voice and vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Beirut. [end recording]

UNIFIL Commander: Forces To Cooperate in Deployment

NC0408200893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] At a news conference today, the commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], said that UNIFIL will cooperate with the decision to deploy the army as far as executive measures are concerned. He said that the army has become stronger and can play a vital role.

Israeli Sources: Action Temporary

TA0408183693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] The United Nations has reportedly agreed that the Lebanese Army move into UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon]-controlled areas only for a limited period. This, according to Israeli sources at the United Nations. UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali is said to be opposed to the Lebanese Army moving permanently into UNIFIL areas, which reach down to the border of the security zone.

Butrus-Ghali reportedly agreed to a request from Lebanese Premier Rafiq al-Hariri to move into the area only temporarily, solely to resolve the feuds between opposing Hizballah clans.

'Awn Group Criticizes Israeli, Iranian Involvement

PM0508091293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: " 'Awn's Supporters: Evacuation Decision Made in Tel Aviv, Provocation Decision in Tehran"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The "World Front for the Liberation of Lebanon" (General Michel 'Awn's supporters) have said that "the Israeli attack on Lebanon has once again revealed the false conditions affecting the political, security, and economic situation." It added: "Once again the Lebanese people, especially in the south, are used as a cheap commodity in the competition between regional and international policies. The decision to destroy the south and evacuate its people is made in Tel Aviv, and the provocation decision is made in Tehran. As for the backtracking decision, it is made alternately between Iran and Syria." The Front noted that "by shedding Lebanese blood and destroying villages Iran now has a role and a policy in the Middle East problem. And Syria, which claims to have nothing to do with Hizballah's behavior, prevented the disarming of Hizballah and is still the passageway for Iranian arms to it." It went on: "The border strip in the south is in Israel's care, and the other militias have become a Lebanese state controlled by the Syrian regime. As for the Hizballah militia, it receives its big decisions from Iran and coordinates with Syria." The Front believes that "only the Lebanese Army must take charge of security tasks on all Lebanese territory without exception in implementation of a political decision issued by a free Lebanese political authority produced by free elections conducted under UN supervision after the withdrawal of all the foreign armies of Syria and Israel in implementation of all the UN resolutions, beginning from Resolution 425 through to Resolution 520."

Israeli General Warns Score Settling 'Not Over'

NC0508081393 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] What happened last week was a message to the Lebanese Government and Army to make them understand that they must take responsibility for security and stability in southern Lebanon. It was also a message to the Syrian Government and other Arab states that Israel will not accept such a dangerous situation in the region. This was affirmed by Israeli liaison unit commander General Gabi Ashkenazi, who added that the Israeli bombardment was a signal to Hizballah and other terrorist groups not to attack northern Israel and the border strip. Gen. Ashkenazi stressed that the blood of the Israeli Army and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] will not be shed in vain and that the settling of scores is not over yet. What happened was only symbolic of Israel's strength. However, he stressed that Israel's aim is peace and calm.

Gen. Ashkenazi said: The Syrians must understand us and help us establish peace and security in the region. He affirmed the continuation of material and military support for the security zone through equipping the SLA and establishing development and security projects in the region.

Ashkenazi was speaking during a ceremony held yesterday to inaugurate a school donated by the Israeli Liaison and Administrative Affairs Unit to al-Bayyadah village. The two-story school is made up of eight classroom, a teachers' room, and a covered stadium.

SLA Patrol Targeted in Third Attack Since Cease-Fire

NC0508105893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] The hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah came under intermittent Israeli bombardment before noon today. The bombardment targeted Jabal Safi, al-Luwayzah, and Jba' in particular and originated from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah.

In another development, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] radio [Voice of the South] has said that an explosive charge went off today as an SLA patrol was passing without causing injuries. The radio pointed out that the explosion occurred near Saydun, in the Jazzin area in the occupied border strip. This is the third incident of its kind in the south since a cease-fire took effect last Saturday [31 July].

Christopher Continues Meetings With Syrian Officials

Discusses Peace Process With al-Asad

JN0408170793 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Damascus, 4 Aug (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at 1130 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross attended the meeting.

Talks centered on the various aspects of the peace process after 10 rounds of peace talks, as well as the recent Israeli operations against Lebanon.

They exchanged views on ways to revive the peace process and push it toward its objective, i.e., the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace.

Christopher expressed continued U.S. interest in the peace process, as well its determination to maintain it and help the parties involved achieve progress toward the planned goal.

The president stressed Syria's eagerness to cooperate in accordance with the bases laid down for the peace process and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Holds News Conference With al-Shar'

JN0408174093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1635 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Damascus, 4 Aug (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held a joint news conference today attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies, world television networks, members of the media, journalists, and the media delegation accompanying Mr. Christopher.

At the outset of the conference, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held a serious and frank round of talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. We also held a round of talks at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

Al-Shar' pointed out that the talks covered a wide range of issues, particularly the recent incidents represented by Israel's shelling and destruction of several villages and cities in southern Lebanon.

Al-Shar' expressed the belief that the talks Christopher held today would help save the Middle East peace process. He said: Had the recent events in Lebanon continued, they would have buried the peace process under Lebanese rubble. Al-Shar' expressed his belief that Christopher's visit to Damascus and his tour of the region will help save the peace process.

On his part, Warren Christopher said he held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today, and that the talks dealt with several issues. The talks, he added, focused on the possibility of achieving progress in the peace talks, which require further serious action.

Christopher added: Of course, the discussions were centered on the need to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace based on UN Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242 and the land for peace formula, and on the means to remove obstacles to the Israeli-Syrian talks.

The U.S. secretary said the United States can play an important role as an energetic intermediary communicating ideas and working out formulas to bridge the gaps.

Christopher indicated that there has been agreement on the importance of working within the framework of the Madrid Conference to work out a solution to the problem of the Palestinian-Israeli talks and to reach en early agreement on interim self-rule.

Mr. Christopher said: President al-Asad and I spoke at length about recent developments in Lebanon and the importance of realizing the need for calm to be restored [to southern Lebanon] and to enable Lebanese civilians to return to their homes and resume normal life.

Syria, he added, has played an important role in this regard. He appreciated working closely with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to defuse tension and lay the groundwork for refocusing on the peace process.

Mr. Christopher said recent developments in Lebanon were a reminder of the urgent need to search for peace in this region. He expressed a firm conviction that a new opportunity can invigorate the peace process.

The U.S. secretary said he was happy to meet with Mr. al-Shar' and have held telephone conversations with him over the past few days. Today's meeting, he said, was an opportunity for him to thank Mr. al-Shar' for his contribution to a termination of hostilities in Lebanon.

Mr. Christopher emphasized that he was here today to fulfill a commitment by President Clinton to the Arab-Israeli peace process. His mission, he added, is a bid to put the peace process back on track and to make progress. He hoped it will be possible to hold out the hope of a secure and prosperous future for the peoples of the region.

The American secretary thanked His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Minister al-Shar' for their hospitality and the serious attitude with which they approached today's talks. I look forward to returning to Damascus to pursue my efforts to promote a historic change in the Middle East through the peace process.

Al-Shar' and Christopher then responded to journalists' questions.

Asked if progress was achieved in the talks on the occupied Golan, al-Shar' said: We cannot speak about

progress now, because the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon, the random destruction of villages and cities, and displacing citizens from the south to the north, have largely undermined the peace process. Syria hopes the early termination of the bombardment will help Secretary Christopher revive the peace process in order to make substantial progress in the future.

Asked if there is anything new in the U.S. role as a full partner in the peace process, Secretary Christopher said he cannot say there is anything new in this role. He added: However, we can simply say this role affirms the determination to exert efforts so the United States will become a full partner and present itself as a broker.

Asked if the two sides discussed what a U.S. congressman said last week about U.S. information that Iran dispatched weapons by air to Syria in order to send them to Lebanon, al-Shar' said: The U.S. congressman's information is completely baseless. Western media, particularly in the United States, always report that weapons are transferred from Iran to Lebanon via Syria. This is absolutely incorrect. The national Lebanese resistance, in fact, does not need such supplies, because the 16-year civil war in Lebanon turned the country into a jungle of weapons.

Al-Shar' noted that the national Lebanese resistance, including Hizballah, does not need many weapons in their resistance against the Israeli occupation. They, in fact, need the simple ammunition and equipment that can be found inside Lebanon after these years of the civil war. Al-Shar' said: This has been discussed with Christopher.

Asked if he carried new proposals for discussion with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the U.S. secretary of state said he has not brought any proposals and that the parties have not yet reached this stage of discussion as they are still in the stage of raising questions, exploring things, and exchanging information.

Christopher expressed his conviction that his country's role is that of the broker who is trying to help the parties define what we are talking about, adding that everybody now is at the point of exploring issues, raising questions, and exchanging ideas, not proposals.

Commenting on a question on the absence of the U.S. proposals and ideas that Syria had expected, Faruq al-Shar' said: Syria's viewpoint is clear. It has joined the peace process on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace formula. When Syria feels this objective has moved within reach, it will say that real progress can be achieved there.

Al-Shar' added: If Israel is committed to the UN resolutions, with all their contents, or, in other words, if Israel commits itself to withdrawal, especially in light of our proposal, which calls for a full peace in return for a full withdrawal, then the peace process will be heading in the right direction.

Asked if the current situation requires a shuttle tour between Syria and Israel, Secretary Christopher said he does not believe there is a need for a shuttle tour. He said he is here to help the parties. For, he said, if one of the parties takes a step forward or a step backward, he would not know how much time he would need to carry out such a tour.

He added: I was in Jerusalem this morning, and I will return to it tonight.

Christopher affirmed he will be present within the time limits of his schedule to help the parties move forward in the peace process.

The U.S. secretary of state said he and al-Shar' agreed that the recent developments have saved the peace process and put it back on track, and that he does not want to be overoptimistic in this regard.

Asked about a statement he made in Cairo in which he said if no progress is made in the peace process then there will be opportunity for an escalation of tension in the region, the U.S. secretary of state said that if no progress is made in the peace process, there will be a serious setback in region. He said this will have a negative effect. Therefore, he added, he cut short his visit to Singapore and returned to the United States to see what he could do to save the peace process.

Christopher said he profoundly believes there is an opportunity to achieve peace, which, if not seized, will leave negative effects.

Answering a question about Syrian Jewish citizens who like to travel abroad, Faruq al-Shar' said: All Syrian citizens are free to travel. This, certainly, affects Syrian Jewish citizens. There is no discrimination among Syrian citizens, regardless of their religions. If there were bureaucratic difficulties, then this would apply to all citizens.

Al-Shar' added: I want to make it very clear that Syria cannot give privileges to a certain group of people. This is a principle to which the Syrian Government is committed and on which it cannot go back.

Answering a question about his plans to visit Lebanon after Syria, Christopher said he did not want to reveal his travel plans.

Asked why the United States was late in expressing its opinion about the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, Christopher pointed out that it was not late. He said he began contacts from Singapore on Monday [26 July] of the week of the events, which was the second day. He said he was trying to see what he could do.

He said: From the beginning, we spoke with the concerned parties. This continued throughout the week. This conforms with Foreign Minister al-Shar's statement that if the events had continued for a longer time, they would have had very bad consequences.

Asked about pledges made by U.S. President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher to play an active role in the peace talks and to be a full partner in line with the Madrid conference, as well as about the nature of the U.S. role and whether it is neutral or is pressing to apply UN resolutions and the content of the U.S. initiative, i.e. the exchange of land for peace, Christopher said: The U.S. role does not prefer any party to any other party. Its role is that of a mediator that equally supports both parties.

Christopher added: We have used the expression "fair mediator," and I am not sure about its translation into other languages. He said that to him the expression meant supporting concerned parties in a balanced manner in order to reach a positive result. Of course, it is these parties that can provide considerable momentum. The United States, he added, has a role to play, but the parties that want peace should achieve progress. As long as these parties do this, the United States will play the role of a fair mediator.

Asked if the negative atmosphere during the Israeli aggression on Lebanon that affected the peace process still prevails after Christopher's talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and if there is hope for continuing the peace process and for attending the 11th round of talks, al-Shar' said the Israeli operation inside Lebanon seriously affected the peace process. He said Christopher agreed with him on this assessment. As Syria said, he added, if the Israeli shelling continued, it would lead to the destruction of the peace process, not just Lebanese villages and houses.

Al-Shar' added: President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher took a clear position on the need to stop Israeli shelling in Lebanon. It is true that they were a little bit late, but it was better than being too late.

Al-Shar' expressed the belief that Christopher's determination to come to the region to seriously discuss saving the peace process and putting it on the right path is also a positive step that should be taken into account.

Al-Shar' pointed out that Christopher's visit would not have taken place if the United States had not decided to stop the shelling.

Asked if he believes that the Syrian and Israeli sides were serious enough in their negotiations on the occupied Golan to justify his return to Israel this evening, Christopher said that he believes the two sides have been serious over the last two days of the talks and that there is seriousness in both sides' intentions.

Media on Christopher Visit, U.S. Role in Peace Talks

More Pressure on Israel Urged

JN0408131793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has begun his talks in Damascus on activating the peace process, as well as ways to reach a breakthrough in the Washington talks.

Following his talks with Israeli officials, the U.S. secretary of state said he expected no major progress or dramatic developments. It is obvious that Christopher has been unable to offer anything new regarding the Palestinian track, where Israel refuses to discuss the issue of Jerusalem and the future of the occupied West Bank settlements.

Observers believe the brutal Israeli aggression on Lebanon—seven days that saw the organized destruction of cities, towns, and villages, the displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and the creation of an evacuee problem for the Lebanese Government—has confirmed Arab and international doubts that Israel's rulers do not want the honorable peace to which the region's countries aspire. These rulers are capitalizing on peace in order to cover up their hostile short- and long-term plans.

The Israeli aggression intended to destroy the Lebanese people's will, as well as Lebanon's stability, under weak pretexts that cannot withstand any scrutiny. Events in the south would have been avoided if the Israeli negotiator in the Washington talks had agreed to apply Security Council Resolution No. 425 to settle all pending problems on the Lebanese-Israeli track.

Israel's rulers, however, have opted for the language of force, for mad destruction, and for coercive mass displacement—as if the 20th century had returned to the Middle Ages and the law of the jungle. How can the Lebanese people trust Israel's peace claims? How can Syria be convinced for a single moment that Israel can achieve the desired just peace in the region?

If Israel's rulers contemplated their brutal aggression against Lebanon, and carefully studied the reasons for its failure, if they considered the implications of all the Lebanese, Syria, and the Arabs unifying their positions, demanding the application of Security Council resolutions, and supporting the national resistance, they would have learned useful lessons. They would have learned that Middle East peace is impossible with the continuation of occupation, injustice, oppression, and destruction. They would have learned that the Arabs can no longer be addressed by force, arrogance, and dictatorial Zionist terms.

Peace has specific factors, which the Americans and the international community know well. Peace can be achieved only through recognizing the Palestinian people's right to freedom and self-determination. Peace can be achieved only by total withdrawal from the occupied territories, including the Golan and southern Lebanon, by restoring rights to their owners, and through applying UN resolutions, principles, and charters as a constitution and as a way of dealing with the region's countries.

Israel, which is pursuing an evasive policy, is required to bow to the needs of a just and comprehensive settlement, after the failure of its condemned tyrannical aggression. When Israel accepts these facts, declares its readiness to apply UN resolutions, and withdraws from the occupied territories, it will involve itself in the peace process in a real way. At this point, the U.S. role as a full and fair partner should come to the fore.

The United States is required to clarify matters and explain to Israel that its policies conflict with peace and will only lead to more destruction and instability. Syria has repeatedly explained through President Hafiz al-Asad that it wants real peace, but not the peace Israel is trying to promote. That is surrender, not peace. It is aimed at entrenching Zionist control of the region's potential.

For Syria and the other Arab parties, surrender is out of question. Syria understands peace only as regaining rights and promoting justice. Therefore, Israel alone will be responsible for any setback in the peace process.

Talks Said Returing to 'Proper Path'

JN0508154893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: We draw your attention to two things in U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statements in Damascus and Zahlah yesterday. First, Christopher managed to save the peace process after it was almost buried under the rubble caused by the recent Israeli aggression on Lebanon. Second, Christopher managed to bring the peace process back to the correct path.

This obviously means Israel's aggression failed to achieve its objective, which was pushing the peace process off its sound path and toward the abyss.

Christopher's remarks were interpreted as reflecting an optimistic tone. The U.S. secretary was eager to express this tone after his talks with Syrian and Lebanese officials, before his return to Israel. No doubt, during his talks with the Arab parties, the U.S. secretary himself sensed the extent of Arab indignation about Israel's devastating aggressiveness. This aggressiveness is cloaked in every kind of unconvincing pretext.

Christopher sensed Arab pessimism about the prospects for the peace process as a result of Israel's aggression, especially since this aggression has entrenched the Arab conviction that Israel does not seek peace. This is because someone who seeks peace, as President Hafiz al-Asad said, does not kill women, old people, and children, nor does he destroy homes, villages, and cities.

The U.S. secretary must have heard the Arab side speaking clearly about the need to prevent Israel from politically exploiting the outcome of its devastating aggression on Lebanon. He must have heard affirmations that the peace process cannot be promoted based on the outcome of this aggression. It must be based on compliance with the principles on which the peace process was established.

The optimistic tone attributed to Christopher following his talks in Damascus and Zahlah says that the peace process was really rescued from beneath the rubble in southern Lebanon. This process was brought back to its proper path. This optimistic tone, however, should not negate the need for caution about the intrigues hidden in Israel's quiver. Israel may use these intrigues against the peace process in the future.

Perhaps Christopher's contacts and convictions will persuade him to return quickly and renew his meetings and contacts with officials in the Arab capitals. There is still hope that such a return by Christopher will be linked to the emergence of something new from the other party to the peace process—the Israeli side—something that will prove there has been a change in the Israeli position. This will encourage the continuation of the peace process and the opening of horizons for its progress. For the 20 months since the peace process began, Israel's known position has prevented the achievement of such a breakthrough.

Since the very beginning, the Arabs have proved they are concerned about peace. They have impeded every Israeli attempt, including the recent devastating aggression on southern Lebanon, designed to undermine the peace process or divert it from its correct path. The Arabs have responded to every sincere effort to promote this process. They welcomed Washington's pledge of playing the role of an honest and impartial broker in order to use its influence as a driving force on the path of a just settlement.

In return, all there is to say is that the Israeli side should change its intransigent positions and affirm its compliance with the bases and principles on which the peace process was established. The Israeli side should stop creating obstructions, making preconditions, fabricating crises, and intensifying the atmosphere through aggression, in order to strike at the current opportunity for peace.

If, through his current shuttle tour, Secretary Christopher actually manages to foster such a change in the Israeli position, he will have succeeded in saving more than the peace process. He will will have opened needed horizons. Then, this process could proceed toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace, which will provide the region with security, stability, and serenity.

Efforts To Salvage Process Noted

JN0508070893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN says: During his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed Syria's eagerness to extend the necessary cooperation in accordance

with the bases laid down for the peace process to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

TISHRIN adds: The treacherous Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the enormous devastation it left behind, the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people it caused, the killing of innocent civilians, and the conviction that the Tel Aviv rulers do not seek peace all figured highly in the talks. This is because the peace process would have utterly collapsed had the Israeli aggression against Lebanon continued. Hence, Christopher's mission in the region is to salvage the peace process, pull it out from under the rubble of the Israeli aggression, and breathe new life into it.

TISHRIN goes on to say: An established fact which has now become clear to all is that any progress in the peace process depends on how far Israel is willing to go to comply with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and also with the essence of the U.S. initiative. Israel has thus far failed to commit itself to withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. It has, indeed, caused destruction in southern Lebanon to demonstrate its unwillingness to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

TISHRIN says: To prevent the talks from revolving in a vicious circle, the United States is required, now more than ever before, to hold frank talks with Israeli rulers, and to make them accept the components of just peace.

For its part, the newspaper AL-BA'TH editorializes on the same issue, saying: Syria seeks peace. It has repeatedly demonstrated this in word and deed, whereas Israel continues to reject the components of the peace process and refuses to implement the relevant UN resolutions, which provide for Israeli troop withdrawal and demand that it restore rights to their rightful owners. Instead, Israel is attempting, by way of intrigue, malice, and semantics, to obtain everything in return for nothing.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria has never been subdued by any threats or intimidation, and it cannot now be subdued by Israeli saber rattling, or by the provocations of the Rabin government. Moreover, the use of such tactics with Syria is futile. As regards the Rabin government's alleged concern for peace, it cannot be convincingly demonstrated through the use of the big stick, the shedding of blood, the launching of aggressions, the causing of destruction, and defiance of the international community.

In an article on the same issue, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: During his talks with Arab officials, the U.S. secretary of state may have felt an unmistakably clear concern for salvaging the peace process to render it a success. However, it must be stated in no uncertain terms that this concern is grounded in principles and constants, over which there can be no bargaining whatsoever. The first of these constants is the need to achieve a comprehensive solution on all fronts so that there may be no room for partial or separate settlements. The second of these constants is that the desired peace must be based on commitment to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which provide for complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories as well as the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

Official Links End of Boycott to Peace Agreement

PM0508081493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Aug 93 p 2

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Damascus Refuses To End Boycott of Israel, Links It to Its Acceptance of Peace Agreements"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—A Syrian official said yesterday that it is possible to accept the raising of the question of ending the Arab boycott of Israel in any future negotiations and that achieving peace is the way to end this boycott.

The source said that the boycott constitutes an important card, indeed a pressure card, in the hands of the Arab states, which can play it always and in all circumstances. This card cannot be offered before the achievement of a complete peace that provides for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

The Syrian official added that the boycott issue remains strong despite some violations of it—which prompts the United States to always raise it during Arab-U.S. talks. The official emphasized that in return for Israel's acceptance of the peace terms and the Arab states' agreement to sign peace treaties with Israel, normalization of relations can be discussed in this framework—which would lead to the abolition of the principle of economic boycott of Israel. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Rabbani, Mas'ud Meet Group Leaders

LD0408173293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Afghan President, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, met this afternoon with Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, the amir of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan]; the esteemed Prof. Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, the amir of Ettehad-e Eslami-e [Islamic Union of Afghanistan]; esteemed Qazi Mohammad Amin Weqad, deputy prime minister and minister of communication; Agriculture and Irrigation Minister, esteemed Sayyed Nurollah Emad; and members of jehadi organizations who came to Kabul from Peshawar today. The meeting was held at Rabbani's residence.

BAKHTAR reports that during the meeting, Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, in the presence of Engineer Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, spoke about the current situation in the country and the maintenance of security and peace in the country. He said: We are now witnessing the spread of peace and security in the country, and every day we see that the Jalalabad agreements are being implemented and realized.

Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani also discussed the realization of Islamic aims in the country. He said that the aims of the Islamic State, as they pertain to the prosperity and well-being of the persecuted people of Afghanistan, are currently being implemented with the cooperation of the country's faithful and mojahed people and with the cooperation of the people of the country. Their sole demand is the victory of the Islamic revolution. They are bravely supporting the Islamic State and are working and struggling toward strengthening the pillars of the state.

The delegation presented a report of their tour to the president of the Islamic State.

India

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Kyrgyzstan

BK0508032693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] India and Kyrgyzstan have signed a protocol to enhance cooperation in economic and agricultural spheres and science and technology. The protocol was signed by the Indian foreign minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and his Kyrgyzstan counterpart, Mr. Karabayev, in New Delhi yesterday.

Earlier, Mr. Karabayev called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and briefed them about the process of constitutional and economic reforms in his country.

Pakistan, Bangladesh Said Training Militants

BK0408143793 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 26 Jul 93 p 5

[By staff reporter]

[Text] Agartala, 25 July—The Inter-Services Intelligence, ISI, of Pakistan is training various militant groups operating in the northeastern region of India. The ISI has set up its bases and training camps in neighboring countries, including Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. The director general of the Border Security Force of India, Prakash Singh, has alleged that Bangladesh and Nepal are providing shelter to the militants. He said that they have evidence to prove it. Singh further said that the militants of the northeastern region use the Tripura border to go to Bangladesh.

Eleven Muslim extremists from Tripura and Assam were arrested recently. They were nabbed while returning from Bangladesh after receiving arms training. During the interrogation, they confessed that an extremist organization named Islamic Revolutionary Organization has been formed in Manipur. Police sources said that this organization was set up following the recent violence in Manipur.

Expressing concern over foreign hands' supporting militancy in the region, the chief of the Border Security Force has said that the Indian Government has raised the issue with the Bangladesh Government. He added that Dhaka has not responded to the request made by India to stop giving training and providing shelter to the militants.

Troops Fire on Kashmir Protesters, Kill 12

BK0408145293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, 12 people were killed when Indian troops opened fire at several places to disperse protest processions. Reports say curfew remained in force today for the third day in Srinagar, Sopor, Baramula, Kupwara Badgam, Pulwama, and Anantnag-Islamabad.

Commentary Defends Government's Human Rights Record

BK0508131593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Commentary by Brahm Dutt]

[Text] Indian security forces have been targets of motivated allegation of violations of human rights, specially by the Western-based human rights organizations. These organizations have neither the infrastructure nor the resources to verify the facts. They are mostly governed by the disinformation campaign launched by various

extremist organizations and by the Pakistani press that misses no opportunity to flash any such report on the front page of their papers.

The Government of India has allowed Asia Watch and Amnesty International to visit Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and see for themselves the situation on the ground. These organizations are expected to remember that Pakistan has been waging a proxy war in the two frontline states. The terrorists often take cover under human beings after firing at the security forces. They pick up a target at the time and place of their choice and then run away to markets or look for human cover. When the security forces give counterattack or chase them, it is alleged that the security forces are killing or harassing innocent civilians.

Asia Watch and Physicians for Human Rights in their second annual report on Kashmir have alleged that the Indian forces are using rape as a tactic of war in Kashmir. This kind of motivated charges have no basis. These organizations, the basic human psychology that gives [words indistinct] into any sexual action. All the cases which are worth investigating were investigated and found baseless, motivated, and ill conceived. Most of the cases reported were so weak that they could not stand up to scrutiny. One has always been pleasantly surprised that even the cases of the use of excessive force by the security forces were much fewer than what could be expected in the conflicts like this. Human rights organizations have not only ignored these facts, they have also chosen to close their eyes to the atrocities and human rights violations by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists operating under the guise of freedom fighters or liberators.

Terrorist-related violence is sharply on the rise. In 1989, there were 2,154 incidents against 4,971 in 1992. The fact that over 11,000 sophisticated weapons have been seized in the recent past reflects the enormity of the problem. Rape, torture, and murder continue on a massive scale by the extremists. Innocent citizens (?duped) by informers, politicians, journalists, or police and security personnel have been targets of frequent attacks. Destruction of infrastructural facilities and property, particularly those belonging to the minority community in the valley, have become a regular feature. Nearly 25,000 people belonging to this community have been forced to flee the valley. Since 1991, Kashmiri Muslims, too, have been leaving the valley in fear. Local newspapers in terrorist-affected areas under the threat of the gun provide wide coverage to the smear and disinformation campaign. The Pakistani media across the border and the line of actual control is only happy to pick up these stories and publish them with their own garnishing.

The record of Indian Government including that of the security forces in respect of human rights has been more than good. In comparison to the human rights violations of the Western countries, the Indian forces are many times better even in treating the enemy. The treatment given to the POW's in 1971 war speaks volumes on how Indian forces adhere to the UN conventions. Indian forces do not forget while operating in Punjab and Kashmir or any other border state that they are dealing with their own fellow citizens and not with the enemies.

Over the past two decades, Indian legal system has evolved a unique legal process known as public interest litigation. This allows any individual or group, not necessarily the affected party, to bring a complaint to the notice of the High Court or the Supreme Court for trial. The government is also introducing legislation to set up an independent and autonomous human rights commission with wide powers. All these make it clear that government is fully conscious of human rights. In fact, the Western-based human rights organizations are themselves deficient in appreciating the dimensions of right they claim to defend.

Authority of Election Commission Explained

BK0408141893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] The attorney general of India, Mr. Milan Banerjee, appearing in the Lok Sabha today, expressed the view that the Election Commission cannot direct deployment of police forces to any state for the purpose of maintenance of law and order during elections. In a 35-minute-long deposition, he said public order is a state subject. The Election Commission can suggest deployment of additional forces for ensuring free and fair polls. In the last 40 years, the Election Commission had been making suggestions which have been more or less met by the states in this regard. Mr. Banerjee, however, made it clear that in the event of a difference of opinion between a state and the Election Commission, the state government's view will prevail. The attorney general said the founders of the Constitution envisaged consultation between the two constitutional authorities and not confrontation. On the issue of disciplinary powers of the Election Commission, Mr. Milan Banerjee said that under the Constitution and Representation of the People Act, the Election Commission is not a disciplinary authority for the state deputed for poll duty.

The Congress-I has described the action of the chief election commissioner in postponing all elections as an arbitrary overreaction. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said that instead of taking any precipitative action, he could have pressed for discussions. The spokesman said a solution to the constitutional crisis created by the Election Commission's decision should be found through an all-party consensus and the government is trying to arrive at such a consensus.

The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] have demanded the setting up of a multimember Election Commission. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, said this is the only way to expeditiously overcome the situation created by the postponement of polls by the Election Commission. He said suggestions like making a reference to the Supreme

Court or a proposal for an impeachment of the chief election commissioner are time-consuming. Replying to questions, Mr. Advani felt that though the complaints of the chief election commissioner are justified, his action has resulted in an unprecedented constitutional crisis. The CPI-M general secretary, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, told newsmen that a multimember Election Commission should be constituted to set in the election process. He said all parties should be consulted before taking any decision.

Paper Denounces Government No-Confidence Vote Win

BK0508010093 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 30 Jul 93 p 8

[Editorial: "A Tainted Victory"]

[Text] The Narasimha Rao Government has won the vote on the no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. The country has lost; so has the cause of morality in public life. Never in the past had a Government at the Centre stooped to such ignoble means to sustain itself in power. Every dirty trick in the parliamentary book was resorted to. A split was engineered in the Janata Dal(A), thereby once again making a mockery of the Anti-Defection Act. The support of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha was clearly obtained with the promise of a Jharkhand Council with wider powers than envisaged in the Bihar Government's Bill on the subject. Similarly, the lone member from the Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC) was persuaded to abstain by the Prime Minister's announcement that he had asked the Assam Chief Minister, Hiteshwar Saikia, not to go to the Supreme Court against the Guwahati High Court's judgment on the dissolution of the Karbi Anglong District Council. If the fact of these deals was shameful, much more so was the brazenness with which these were struck with the Prime Minister himself openly making the announcements in his reply to the no-confidence motion.

The methods through which the Government has won have undermined its moral authority to rule. So has the Prime Minister's pathetic failure to deal with the issues raised by the Opposition during the debate on the no-confidence motion. He did not even mention the securities scam or Harshad Mehta's allegation of having paid him Rs [rupees] one crore though both had contributed significantly to creating the circumstances which had led to the tabling of the no-confidence motion. He did not mention even once the Rs two-crore loan given by Hiten Dalal, one of the principal culprits in the scam, to Goldstar Steel and Alloys Limited, of which his son, P. V. Prabhakar Rao, is a promoter and director. Nor did he refer to the Bofors scandal.

The Government therefore remains burdened with the stigma of corruption and much else besides, including charges of failure on several fronts. The question is whether such a thoroughly discredited Government can be entrusted with running the country at this critical time of economic and social transition. Even if Congressmen who closed ranks to save it on Wednesday lack the moral sensitivity to be troubled by the question or the manner in which the present government is accelerating the destruction of the country's public life, they should ask whether certain defeat does not await them at the election if they approach it under the present leadership. If such mutually hostile political configurations as the National-Left Front combine and the Bharatiya Janata Party came together on the same no-confidence motion it was not so much as political opportunism as the pressure of public opinion and compulsions of national interest that accounted for it. Congressmen would show themselves to be even less unwise than people suspect them to be if they do not see the writing on the wall.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks at Inauguration Ceremony

LD0408141793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian 0420 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Inauguration speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Majles in Tehran—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Before the lofty Koran and the Iranian nation, I swear to the God Almighty that I, the president, will guard the official state religion, the Islamic Republic's system, and its Constitution. I will utilize all my knowledge and abilities to carry out the responsibilities I have accepted, and I will devote myself to serving the people, exalting the country, propagating religion and ethics, supporting righteousness, and spreading justice. I will avoid despotism in any form, I will defend the freedom and integrity of individuals, and I will support the rights which the Constitution has bestowed upon the nation.

In safeguarding the borders and the political, economic, and cultural independence of the country, I will use all my ability, and with assistance from God, and obeying the Prophet of Islam and the 12 imams—peace be upon them—I will act like a selfless and pious trustee in safeguarding the power which the nation has vested in me, and I will entrust this power to my successor who will be elected by the nation.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Once again we have taken this oath here. During the last term, we realized how hard it was to fulfill the oath. I now know what a difficult oath it is, and what fine points it embraces. Without help from God, and without Him giving us a helping and supporting hand, we truly would not be able to fulfill this oath. The oath has been written and arranged very well in terms of the themes it contains. Surely, one person alone can not fulfill this oath, and

cooperation is needed in terms of policies, laws, supervision, and recruitment [gozinesh]. This means that we need the cooperation of our colleagues in the government, and in the judiciary and legislative powers. We also urgently need the support of the leader of the revolution.

The fulfillment of this oath, however, is in fact feasible, as it contains no slogans and no impractical issues. I only wish to refer to some points regarding the fulfillment of the oath. In the speech at the last ceremony, I mainly explained the various parts of the oath, and I will not repeat those remarks here.

One of the points that the oath strongly emphasizes is the principle of safeguarding Islam, as the official religion, ethics, spirituality, and the lofty aspirations of the revolution. Naturally, these issues concern our whole existence and being, our past, and our future. These also constitute our most natural motives at the present time. Praise be to God, our society too is very sensitive toward these issues.

Furthermore, the eminent clergy, who have spearheaded the revolution and today stand behind the revolution while solving many of its problems, help in the process of fulfilling this duty. Fortunately, our situation is clear; that is to say it is clear that in the corrupt world of today, what steps the Islamic Republic has taken toward protecting this heavenly and divine system which has been entrusted to us. Naturally, our future prospects within the forthcoming term are the same as what we had before, which is something that we live for.

Another point which has been emphasized in the letter of the oath is the issue of freedom, democracy, and the rights of the individuals and the society. This is a very valuable achievement, and we do not think that any real and popular revolution can allow itself to violate the rights of its people. Of course this principle has been covered in the previous segment of the oath, because the issue of these freedoms constitutes one of the lofty values of Islam.

Well, we gained our experience in the last round and you have seen its manifestation on the sacred podium of the Majles, in the press, in the courts, in the country's mass media, in the Voice and Vision, and in our encounters with our critics and those whose viewpoints regarding programs and the executions of affairs differed from ours. You have seen that we made efforts so that people may participate adequately within the framework of Islam and the revolution and exercise their rights.

At the last meeting I had during the elections days, the issue was raised at a Cabinet meeting that certain things were being said in the election campaigns which related to the ministers and not to myself and which were untrue. The ministers sought permission to defend themselves. I thought that this issue may dent the elections and in spite of the fact that these ministers had the right, I told them to wait until the elections were over before they went to defend those who have been the objects of abuse. Of course, I made this request and they accepted. We tried not to allow society to feel that I, as the president, intend to impose my ideas or to deprive anyone of his legal rights.

Another section is the advancement [e'tela'] of the country which is highly complex and extensive—it is extremely difficult, really. The other two sections were much easier than this third one. Sometimes the measures taken to exalt the country get lost to such an extent in the sandstorms of hostile propaganda, slogans, claims, and demagogueries, that people find it difficult to find them, and anyone who is in contact with public opinion and wants to act in line with the votes of the people, has to be very daring and bold to embark on this work. There are some things which are clearly contrary to the advancement of the country. I shall present that argument along with the argument on justice.

Where stress has been placed on the issue of justice and its increase, well, our country is grappling with this problem like many other countries. What I have to say on this issue today, at this splendid ceremony in the presence of eminent figures from Qom and the dear deputies of the Majles, is that we need to cooperate very seriously and reach understandings if we are to succeed in fulfilling these two commitments.

Sometimes actions are taken which are well meant but which go against the advancement of the country and against justice. The motto which we all uphold is the motto in support of social justice, but we sometimes act contrary to this. I have referred to this issue before and today I shall speak more explicitly about one or two instances so that you may see what there is to be done to establish this justice—what we should be debating.

Let us, for instance, take the issue of subsidies in society—every time we want to touch any part of it, the supporters of the deprived start protesting and supporters of justice also start protesting—precisely contrary to what justice is. For instance, take the issue of fuel and the way it is being consumed. Is the manner of the consumption of this fuel helpful to social justice? Who can defend this?

The consumption of our gas and oil together amount to approximately 2 million barrels per day now. If we count the current price, we are removing something in the region of 12 to 14 billion rials from the reserves of the present and future generations. This is how we are consuming our fuel. Now, if we were to give this to the people on an equal basis, we would have at least not undermined our justice but would have harmed the advancement of the country. But now both advancement and justice are harmed. Who benefits from this fuel?

You all know that the amount of fuel consumed by many of our rural inhabitants and our urban poor is not at all comparable to the amount consumed by the middle strata or the top 10 percent in society. The figure is not small; it is indeed very large: You can multiply 14 billion by 150 tomans [10 rials] and see what figure emerges and

then spread this over all the works that are possible to do with this—that is, building schools, constructing roads; building universities and hospitals—and give part of it just like this, in cash, to the poor and not building anything with it. Do you know what figure you would get and what great works one could do? [passage omitted]

So one man may be consuming at least 100 liters of fuel per day and another consuming less than five. What is just about this? If I was in the place of the men in the Guardian Council, I would have prevented the passage of any laws which permitted this kind of situation on grounds of them being contrary to Islam. Now, at times because of needs, we have no choice but to do certain things—but what kind of justice is this? The leader of the revolution says justice; the Koran says justice, and here where we have sworn, it says justice.

The issue of justice.... [pauses] If we were to take a small step and raise this figure by, say, 20 or 30 or 50 percent, this is not the point since these are not the figures. You should note that the oil that we extract from the ground—apart from the wells we have drilled and apart from our heavy expenditures and the investments we have made—even we who produce oil very cheaply, it costs us more than $1 per barrel whereas it costs other countries more—and it costs $4 to $5 to extract oil from water. [passage omitted]

By the time this oil is extracted, transported, refined, stored, brought to people's doorsteps and to the pumping stations so that those gentlemen can use it—all this is being spent from the pockets of the people—not from my pockets and the likes of me but from the pockets of these farmers, villagers, the deprived for whom we chant so many slogans.

I do not know why those who chant slogans for justice and in favor of the deprived never speak in these terms?

Issues are raised in current debates but often the mass public opinion does not realize that they are currents. The gentleman who needs votes does not talk frankly. That is our problem which I cannot solve all on my own; I cannot solve if we all do not cooperate.

During those four years I showed a great deal of daring impunity when I tackled many things. As I said, there is something which can be provided for all and so, in terms of justice one does not worry too much. For instance, I am not too worried about the distribution of sugar—though I know that many people obtain it without deserving it. But in any case, everybody has access to it in equal quantities. It is distributed by coupons and everybody can get it. Now if we buy it at 60 tumans and sell it at three tumans, it can somewhat be tolerated in terms of social justice. But in terms of the country's advancement it cannot be tolerated.

You must know that it is not possible for everything in the country to be paid for by public funds. [passage omitted]

Therefore, one of the things about which we have taken an oath, and you representatives too have taken an oath in your support of the constitutional law, is this point. It is our desire which we must include in our programs; of course, it must be done gradually. It cannot be done all of a sudden, since people are used to it and have planned their lives accordingly. It must be achieved step by step. All these programs must be implemented in a coordinated manner.

Justice means we must engage in planning and pay workers their real wages, pay civil servants their real wages, and enable people to earn enough in real terms to meet the cost of living. Then, side by side with such a plan the country will get rid of injustice. The country's output must take shape. Otherwise, who will engage in production under the existing conditions? Only we the government can engage in producing sugar in this fashion—buying expensive and selling cheap; the private sector cannot do so. [passage omitted]

We have no alternative but to raise prices to suitable levels. Then along with that we will raise incomes to suitable levels. Of course, since we know it is not practical to give shock treatment to the people, we will have to plan it and proceed gradually. [passage omitted]

At present, the distribution system of your country in many of its sectors is unjust and is detrimental to progress, despite the fact that over the past four years efforts have been made to improve it. So, in the second plan we must specify when we are to arrive at that point—the next 10 years, the next 15 years?

We must continue to pay correct, logical, and just subsidies but eliminate incorrect subsidies. Only then can we feel to be successful in establishing justice. Now, perhaps if the world was not so closely intertwined, it would have been all right for us to continue paying subsidies. It could have been argued that through such a system we could make everything cheap. But our relationship is not like that. Our situation is such that cheap oil by-products are being smuggled from our country to Kuwait and the Emirates despite the fact that they have more oil than we have. That shows very obviously that our system is totally wrong.

Another point which ensues from the oath is that the president and indeed all other executive personnel of the country—but more so the president—must really forget their own personal interests. If there is something which must be done in the interests of the ummah, the nation, and the revolution we must do it even if it injures our reputation. We must be ready to expend our reputation. We must also be ready to do away with comfort and pleasures of life. There are some pleasures which are right for everybody to enjoy. But perhaps these are not right for us because we are the president of republic or we are representatives of the people or Cabinet ministers. We must do so voluntarily; of course, there is no Islamic instruction here so we must do it voluntarily.

Perhaps for the first time, I will reveal a few details about my own personal and family life. This is not in order to defend myself, but in view of the obligation which the history of the revolution has imposed upon us, so that it may be recorded in history in order to show what the special characteristics of the Islamic Revolution are and what they should be. This is purely for the sake of safeguarding the sanctity of the history of the revolution.

When I said that we are dedicated to it, in my view it means that we should be in the service of the revolution, not for the revolution and the country to be in our service. In other words, we should not make any improper use of the revolution in our own interest because it is in our power. I have always observed this principle in my own life, in my family, and among my close relatives. You know all this, but I will refer to a couple of points, as I said purely for the sake of history and because those who work with me expect it to be so.

Of course, in public we should keep up appearances and in our comings and goings and such things we should act in the way which concerns the issues of the government and has nothing to do with me personally. However, in my personal life I feel dutybound that we should not exceed the conditions which we enjoyed before the revolution and it was also at a middle or low standard. Of course, it won't be wrong if we make proper use my present position. However, due to our oath and due to our earlier commitment, we won't exceed our previous standard of living.

In our personal life and in our private life, anyone who is acquainted with us knows that inside our house it is exactly the same as it was before, or even less. In the past we had servants in our house, but now we do not have any. Our domestic work is being done by my wife, and it is our pride that the wife of the president of the Islamic country sweeps the floor, washes the dishes, and cooks the food. This is how it should be. We do not wish to boast about it, as we were doing the same in the past too.

My mother and my sisters live in the same village they used to live in, and in worse conditions than before the revolution. Some of them are making a living by doing some sewing. This is a source of pride to us and this should be registered in our history; and those who have visited that village have witnessed this.

We have tried to bring up our children in such a way that they do not wish to gain anything from the revolution. During the war as soon as they reached the age of conscription and could participate in the war fronts they were always on the fronts. One of them who was studying did not complete his education; he received his M.A. degree and came back to work in one of the important industries needed by the war, and the others went to the fronts. At the very time when they received chemical injuries, they were accused by the foreign media of being involved in the misuse of funds in such and such a place, but we saw no reason to defend ourselves.

My children live in the house I purchased before the revolution, two or three years before the success of the revolution; as the children grow up they build another floor on it and live there. Of course, none of them is faced with great hardships; perhaps in their ordinary lives they live much better than many other citizens of this country. Although nearly all of them are studen ., whenever I find it appropriate and when there is a problem, where I should be present, where my eyes should see and, at times, when I should confront agents of corruption who are there, like the middlemen and so on, so that they may be frightened due to these connections, I entrust one of my children to go and render some assistance to the revolution.

One of my daughters spends all her time with kidney patients, (?thalidomide victims), and hemophiliacs. The other one helps with the wronged issue of women's sports. There is the need for someone to devote herself to this issue in order to break this terrible curse of the denial of this right to women.

It is our policy that at a time when we are in charge of affairs in the service of the revolution we should not work for ourselves but for our society. [passage omitted]

I pay my salary into an account and I only draw from it when I need to do so. If I do not need it, I make use of my own financial resources which I had before the revolution. Of course, if I need it I draw from it. [passage omitted]

We are now preparing the second plan. We have written down the policies of that plan, which has nearly 600 clauses, every one of each has been debated in the Economic Council. At present the plan has been submitted to the eminent leader, who is engaged in reviewing it. It is the eminent leader who should approve and ratify the policies. [passage omitted]

We have made decisions about our policies regarding subsidies. We have set a timetable which specifies how much of the present subsidies can continue, and for how long. We have also specified how some subsidies can be replaced, so as to be able to support the poor and the needy. In both the last and the present plans special attention has been reserved for continuing the reconstruction of areas ruined by the war, and also by the inauspicious policies of the tyrannical monarchy regime, affecting a sizeable segment of of our deprived strata.

You are aware that a huge proportion of our people, that is people from deprived areas, use the country's means and resources amid an atmosphere of discrimination. [as heard] During the last four or five years we have spent a lot of money on these areas. We have also allocated huge sums of money to reconstructing the ruins left by the war in areas which can be classed as deprived areas. [passage omitted]

In relation to foreign policy, I would like to stress once again that the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy has never been and will never be an adventurous one. We think

and we believe that Islam can spread further and gain more influence in a calm and secure atmosphere rather than in an atmosphere filled with tension and adventurism. This is because we have a logic. Those who create disturbance have no logic. They seek to impose their ideas in a forceful manner.

Our policy is that we we should try to make our presence in the world by being a cultural and spiritual center, rather than by resorting to the might of weapons or to the policy of terror, or other things of which we are accused in a dastardly fashion. The proof for this is our present situation. You only need to look at the area circling us, and see what the situation is really like everywhere, that is except those places where a relative security exists due to the presence of foreign forces.

It is our will and resolve which has created this situation. It is we who want this tranquillity. It is our people who support the creation of such a situation. We must appreciate this stability and this security, and we must use this opportunity to reconstruct our country. We should preserve our presence in the world through our logic and our rightful stances.

Paying attention to the cultural, educational, and material needs of the country's selfless devotees, the Hezbollah forces, and the esteemed families of the those who have made sacrifices constitutes one of our policies and will always remain a priority in our country. [passage omitted]

I also hope that very soon, with effective cooperation from the Majles deputies, we will able to deal with the issue of the future Cabinet, so that no interruption occurs in the executive affairs of the country. I have always been grateful for the cooperation from this Majles and the previous one. In practice, we have never had any difficulty in ratification of our bills and decisions. Praise be to God, the Majles tribune is a free one, from which the esteemed deputies can express their opinions, which we will benefit from. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Denies Role in Baghdad Car Bomb

LD0408172193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] A car bomb exploded in the Iraqi capital Baghdad today.

According to AFP, the Iraqi Information Ministry issued a statement saying that the Iranian Government was responsible for the blast, which injured two persons.

A spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry has responded to the Baghdad Government's statement, expressing regret at the incident and strongly rejecting any kind of involvement by Iran.

President, Visiting Turkish Official Discuss Ties

LD0408170193 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—A senior Turkish official said here Wednesday [4 August] that Ankara will not allow anyone to mar the relations between Iran and Turkey.

Ozdem Sanberk, deputy foreign minister of Turkey, made the remark in a meeting here with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while submitting him a message from Turkish President Suleyman Demirel. Sanberk said that Turkish foreign policy favours expansion of ties in various fields with the neighbouring Iran which ensures stability and peace in the region. The Turkish official called for the deepening of Tehran-Ankara relations in the trade, economic, political, and transport fields.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said broadening of Tehran-Ankara relations will be in the interest of Iranian and Turkish nations. The Islamic Republic has always believed that prudence and vigilance of officials of both countries will strip the enemies and those who are against friendly ties between the two countries of any opportunity to mar mutual relations.

He said the implementation of agreements reached by the two countries and their closer cooperation in controlling border areas and taking decisive measures against activities of suspicious elements in those areas will benefit the whole region and the world.

Border Security, Azerbaijan Viewed

TA0408151893 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1445 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug 4 (AA)—Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Wednesday [4 August] promised not to allow anti-Turkish activities to be conducted from Iranian soil.

He said he defended the development of relations in every field between Turkey and Iran and stressed that he will support every effort aimed to achieve this.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Turkish Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Ozdem Sanberk after he had taken his presidential oath on Wednesday morning. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has just begun his second four-year term as president.

Sanberk told AA after the meeting that he presented a message to Hashemi-Rafsanjani from Turkish President Suleyman Demirel in which Demirel expressed his hopes for the development of bilateral relations between the two countries and mentioned Turkey's concern over security problems.

In response Hashemi-Rafsanjani confirmed as the highest authority in Iran the assurance given to Turkey by Iran's high officials that no anti-Turkish activity would be allowed to be conducted from Iranian soil.

Sanberk said he also explained to the Iranian president Turkey's concern over the situation in Azerbaijan and said that Turkey defended good relations with all its neighbors and asked for Iran's support in its efforts to achieve the withdrawal of Armenia from the territory it occupies in Azerbaijan.

Iran has a border with Azerbaijan and has a significant Azeri population of its own.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that Iran was looking for close cooperation with Turkey to ensure peace in the region and expressed agreement with Turkey's demand for the withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijan, Sanberk said.

Sanberk said Hashemi-Rafsanjani's attitude during their meeting was very positive and constructive, and it now remained to be seen whether this attitude would be reflected at the executive level.

Relations between Turkey and Iran have been cool for some time, particularly over the issue of separatist terrorists operating against Turkey from bases in Iran.

Meeting With Besharati

LD0508092993 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA—Visiting Turkish First Deputy Foreign Minister Ozdem Sanberk said here Wednesday [4 August] that the enemies of Iran and Turkey were trying to mar Tehran-Ankara ties. Sanberk added that promotion of mutual relations was one of the principles of the Turkish foreign policy. He made the remark in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Sanberk who arrived here Monday to smooth away the problems on the way of strengthening Tehran-Ankara ties stressed that the misunderstandings could be eliminated through continuous and constructive talks. Besharati called for pursuance of the transportation and cultural agreements already signed between the two countries with which Sanberk consented.

The two also discussed the latest developments in Central Asia and condemned the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan Republic calling for immediate withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from the Azerbaijan territory.

Both sides also agreed on the formation of joint commissions on transportation and border issues which are to be held within the next three months.

In a meeting with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani earlier Wednesday, Sanberk handed over a message of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel.

UN Representative Protests U.S. Statement

LD0508123393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations has issued a statement voicing strong objection to the stance of the American chairman of the Security Council vis-a-vis Iran. The American representation currently holds the chairmanship of the UN Security Council.

The statement considers the attack waged by the American UN representative against the Islamic Republic of Iran as a surprise that contravenes the norms and standards of the chairmanship of the UN Security Council, and also contradicts diplomatic norms and the UN Charter.

Yesterday afternoon, while describing the Security Council plans during the current month, the American representative categorized the countries of the world into four groups. Some countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, were classed in the third group, that is countries which are untouchable [gheyr-e qabel-e dastres] and obnoxious [bad qeloq].

Red Crescent To Send Relief Aid to Lebanon

LD0408164993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Following the Zionist regime's bestial attacks against south Lebanon, which resulted in the martyrdom and injury of many Muslim inhabitants of those areas and the destruction of their homes, Mr. Vahid Dastjerdi, head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent Society, stressed when interviewed by our correspondent: The main preparations have now been made to send relief aid to those areas, and expert delegations will soon be dispatched to the area to assess the damage.

Noting that a great deal of damage has been caused to people's homes, he said: The Iranian Red Crescent intends to concentrate part of its activities on the reconstruction of clinics, schools, and other public places. Those compatriots who wish to help can deposit their cash sums for the oppressed people of Lebanon and Palestine in account number 99999 at the central branch of the Bank Melli Iran, and their foreign currency sums in account number 702070 of the same bank.

The head of the Red Crescent Society stressed the need for people to contribute as much as they can. He expressed the hope that donations of clothing, food, and cash should be sent to the deprived people of those areas as soon as possible.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives New Envoy to Libya

LD0508111093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Mr. Hamid Reza Hoseyni, our country's new ambassador to Libya, was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning, before leaving for Libya. At the meeting the president issued instructions about all the topics discussed.

Central Bank Governor Comments on Economic Growth

LD0408165793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] According to figures released by Bank Markazi of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the GDP in the year 1371 [beginning 21 March 1992] has enjoyed a growth rate of 6.3 percent. During the past four years the average growth of GDP has been 8.1 percent, which is higher that the rate of growth forecast in the first five-year development plan. Our correspondent has sent us the following report:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The general assembly of the Iranian Bank Markazi at its meeting last night approved the annual economic report and the balance sheet of the bank in the year 1371. In an interview, Mr. 'Adeli, governor of the Markazi Bank, described the main economic indicators of the country in the year 1371:

['Adeli] In the year 1371, for the fourth successive year, our country enjoyed considerable growth. The growth in GDP reached 6.3 percent and the rate of consumption showed 5.5 percent growth, which shows a reduction compared to previous years. This shows that our people have engaged in greater savings during the past year. Alongside this increased rate of saving the formation of capital and investment in the country also increased, so much so that the percentage of the capital formation compared to GDP reached 23.1 percent.

We experienced considerable growth in the agricultural sector, to the tune of 7.4 percent. In fuel, gas, and kerosene, we also had a considerable growth to the tune of 2.1 percent. We had good growth in the mines sector. In the industrial sector, as was expected, some industrial units succeeded in adjusting to the new situation, but some of them were unsuccessful and altogether this sector showed a growth rate of 3 percent.

In the past year the fiscal situation in the country improved and the budget deficit was reduced to 1.7 percent. In the country's lending policy sphere, the policy of the Bank Markazi continued its policy of trying to attract savings, and it has been successful in this policy, so much so that the rate of growth of bank deposits reached 27 percent. However, as the amount of money needed for investment was also high, we provided loans above the amount we received. The rate of increase in loans provided by the banking system reached 29 percent, while we had 27 percent increase in deposits.

In the agricultural sector we provided loans totalling 17.5 percent. In the industry and mines sector we were planning to provide 37 percent, but due to their greater need we gave them 45 percent. In the housing sector we provided about 25 percent and in the commercial sector we provided them with 13 percent.

In the past year the country's exports, especially in the non-oil sector, showed a considerable growth and reached more than $3 billion, which shows more than 500 percent growth compared to four years ago. The country's oil exports were relatively good and altogether reached nearly $20 billion. Imports were limited to about $21 billion, and in the past year our balance of trade deficit showed great improvement compared to previous years and was much more satisfactory.

On the whole, the evaluation of the economic record for 1371 is that it was a very successful economic record: 6.3 percent growth in the GDP in comparison with different countries of the world. In the industrial countries they had no growth or had less than one percent growth rate, and in the developing countries all growth rates were less than 6 percent, with the exception of a few countries which had a higher rate. Therefore, our economy has shown considerable growth. [end recording]

* Central Bank Artificially Stopping Demand

93LA0129F London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Jul 93 p 4

[Article from 14 August SALAM]

[Text] These days, although it may sometimes be announced that the price of foreign exchange has fallen on the Tehran market, and the Central Bank announces this officially by subtracting a few rials, many people are asking what the truth is, and why such a thing has happened.

A necessary condition for achieving a market in the economic sense is the existence of supply and numerous people making demands. If the one selling or the one making demand has a monopoly, the concept of a market is not realized. When the policy of unifying the foreign exchange rate was adopted, the assumption was that apart from the Central Bank, other government organizations as well as the private sector would be officially recognized as entities demanding foreign exchange, and that foreign exchange would be purchased from whomever sold it the most cheaply. If there was more demand for foreign exchange than supply, naturally the price of foreign exchange would go up.

After the unification of the foreign exchange rate, a number of officials thought that the price of foreign exchange and the dollar would decrease, even coming down to around 100 tomans. In practice, however, it has been seen that prices have rapidly increased. The Central Bank has several ways to prevent the increase in the price

of foreign exchange. One way was to get into the market and provide sufficient foreign exchange to applicants so that the price of foreign exchange would come down.

It was clear, however, that this was not possible, because the Central Bank had great indebtedness and when $50,000-dollar checks went back to the bank it kept them. This indebtedness was due to the opening of credit accounts in the years 1369 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991] and 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992], which were billions of dollars in excess of the limit set in the Plan Law.

Another option open to the Central Bank was to undermine the market system, or in other words, to drive sellers out of the market by setting guidelines, thereby artificially stopping demand. For this purpose they ordered that imports of goods are only to be authorized by opening credit accounts in the banks, and the Central Bank. Consequently other sellers of foreign exchange had no place to go, because foreign exchange could be obtained from them only for certain ordinary and service needs.

Likewise, factories and government institutions are obliged to get their foreign exchange only through the Central Bank. For its part, the bank either gives them no foreign exchange, or it does it by turns. This is nothing but destruction of the market. On the basis of a market system, there must always be a supplier for every demand, and if supply is low, it is controlled by increasing the price of the merchandise, and not through uneconomic guidelines.

It is now clear that the reduction in the price of foreign exchange is in the interest of the Central Bank, because the bank is more interested in buying foreign exchange to pay its debts than it is in selling foreign exchange.

* Qom Plant To Convert Garbage Into Fertilizer

93LA0126C Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 6 Jun 93 p 4

[Text] Karaj—HAMSHAHRI correspondent: The task of building the compost factory (converting garbage to fertilizer) in the Halqeh Darreh area of Mehshahr has started. With the construction and operation of this factory, 250 tons of garbage per day from the cities of Karaj, Mehshahr, and Raja'ishahr will be converted to fertilizer. The costs for buying and starting the machinery and equipment for this factory will be procured and paid from the revenues of the aforementioned cities and from development credits from the Ministry of the Interior and the governor-general's office of Tehran.

At the opening ceremonies for the Mehshahr Compost Factory, Taheri, governor-general of Tehran, said: To observe environmental concerns, it is necessary to build plants to convert garbage to fertilizer (compost) in the nation's large and populous cities.

The governor-general of Tehran said that at the Mehshar Compost Factory, 70 percent of the garbage is converted to fertilizer. He said: In the project to expand this factory, the conversion and recovery of cardboard and nylon, which is about 15 percent of urban refuse, is also planned.

Engineer Khoshru, deputy governor-general of Tehran for coordination and development affairs, Tafreshi, mayor of Mehshahr and Raja'ishahr, also discussed the timetable for completing and putting the Mehshahr compost factory into operation. They said: According to the plan, this factory will be put into operation late in the year 1373 [21 Mar 1994-20 Mar 1995], provided that the rials and foreign exchange needed are obtained in time.

* Twelve Narcotics Smugglers Perish in Kerman

93LA0126I Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] In 13 armed clashes with insurgents and narcotics smugglers in the province of Kerman, 44 of them were killed or arrested.

IRNA reports that Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabataba'i, chief of the Political and Ideological Office of the Kerman Police Precinct, announced the above. He said: Following the vigorous campaign against insurgents and narcotics smugglers, in the last month the forces of the province of Kerman Police Precinct seized 393 kg of narcotics.

He said: During this period, in addition to killing a number of narcotics smugglers, 32 insurgents were arrested, 12 were killed, and 79 weapons along with 87 loaders and 800 bullets were confiscated.

Likewise, 16 video devices and 134 vulgar video films were confiscated and 86 people were arrested for using narcotics, theft, and social corruption.

Pakistan

Three New Ministers Inducted; Cabinet Complete

BK0508103193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] The federal cabinet has been expanded with the induction of three new federal ministers. Our representative says that with the induction of the new ministers, the 12-member caretaker cabinet has been completed. The prime minister will retain the portfolios of cabinet and establishment divisions, defense, environment and urban affairs, Kashmir affairs and northern areas, and sports and culture. The new ministers and their portfolios are: Mr. Khurshid K. Marker, ministry of water and power; Dr. Hafeez Pasha, commerce and tourism division; and Dr. D.K. Riaz Baloch, industries, labor, manpower and overseas Pakistanis, youth affairs, and women's development divisions. The oath of office was administered by the acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad. Among others, the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi; the acting chairperson of the Senate, Dr. Noor Jahan Panezai; the speaker of the dissolved National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan; federal ministers; and members of the Senate were also present on the occasion.

Election Commission Announces Plan for Voting

BK0508150593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] The Election Commission [EC] has announced its comprehensive plan to hold free, fair, impartial, and transparent elections on due dates. The plan was chalked out following the EC's discussions with the representatives of political parties on their proposals for electoral reforms. According to the details, the condition of producing identity card at the polling station will continue. The Ministry of Interior has undertaken to launch a crash program to issue identity cards to those voters who do not possess such cards. All possible efforts will be made to check and cancel fake identity cards.

The question of holding the polls of the national and provincial assembly on one day or on different days is still under consideration. The EC has reached the conclusion that it will not be practicable to introduce the system of proportional representation during the short span of time.

In order to make the defection clause of the Political Parties Act more comprehensive and effective, the commission has already initiated action for legislation on the basis of Political Parties Amendment Ordinance 1990. An ordinance in this regard is likely to be promulgated by the president shortly.

As demanded by many political parties and at the request of the EC, Armed Forces have agreed to provide effective assistance to the EC for holding free, fair, and transparent elections. The Army will organize supervisory and vigilance teams at the polling stations during the polling. In addition, mobile vigilance teams of the Army will carry out surprise checks at polling stations and Army will also maintain law and order as before.

The polling will now be held between 0730 and 1730 without break, increasing the polling time by an hour. The returning officer will compile the results of all polling stations in his constituency in the presence of the candidates or their election agents and announce results of the constituency in his office. The EC will announce the result of each constituency over television and radio on receipt of the results from the returning officer.

The election expenses will be limited by amending the existing law which provides for a ceiling of 1 million rupees for election to a National Assembly seat and 600,000 rupees for election to a provincial assembly seat.

PPP Forming Electoral Alliance With Muslim League Group

BK0508030893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] A broad-based understanding has been reached between the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and the Pakistan Muslim League [PML]-Junejo group to field common candidates in the upcoming elections. In an interview with ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Lahore, Iqbal Ahmad Khan, secretary general of PML-Junejo Group, said both parties will soon hold detailed discussions on electing candidates from various constituencies.

PPP Leader: Gilani Trying To 'Sow Discord'

BK0408160293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] The Pakistan People's Party [PPP] has again demanded electoral reforms in order to ensure fair elections. Parvez Ali Shah, a party leader, and Aitzaz Ahsan called on the election commissioner in Islamabad today. Later, Parvez Shah told a news conference that he demanded that the clause restricting candidates from changing party allegiance be reintroduced. He also demanded that the clause requiring identity cards be abolished and that each candidate contesting the election for any party be allotted only one election symbol, even if he belongs to a minority community. He also called for a restriction on banners and big billboards.

Expressing the PPP's view on the resignation of Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, he rejected Gilani's claim that he resigned because of differences on issues. He said that the party is pursuing a consistent position on all issues, including the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution. He accused Gilani of trying to sow discord within the party.

Bhutto on Lahore Bomb Blasts, Party Manifesto

BK0408124193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Aug 93 p 12

[By Javed Syed]

[Text] Lahore, Aug 3—PPP [Pakistan People's Party] co-Chairperson Benazir Bhutto has condemned the bomb blasts in Lahore and blamed a man for this terrorist act who went to Karachi on July 18 for the same purpose in an attempt to save the Nawaz government. She was probably hinting at Brig (Retd) Imtiaz, who had been blamed for carrying out terrorist activities during the month of July in Karachi.

Talking to reporters at Lahore airport on Tuesday [3 August] evening after arriving from Karachi, Benazir Bhutto said, after the poor reception received by Nawaz Sharif at Lahore and Hyderabad the secret hand had become active against the democratic process.

She said she would not sit at home and would herself lead the PPP election campaign because she believed that life and death was in the hands of God Almighty.

Replying to a question about the PPP manifesto she elaborated seven points which would be the basis of PPP's new manifesto. They are: economic management, agricultural package for farmers, end to corruption and investigation of financial scandals, protection of human rights, protection of trade union rights, elimination of drugs and constitutional reforms.

She said 120 million people of Pakistan were fighting against 120 billion rupees of Nawaz Sharif and they would inflict a crushing defeat to the politics of wealth.

She said the agriculture sector which was the backbone of the country had been badly ignored. She cited former Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz who admitted negative growth in agricultural sector.

Replying to a question, she said 10 percent devaluation of Pak rupee by the caretaker government had badly hit the common man and its impact could not be reversed by any future government. However, she promised to withdraw the 20 per cent abiyana [water tax] from the farmers if PPP was voted to power.

Answering to another question about the PPP's prospective alliance with other political parties, she said the politics was a game of possibility and "we are all trying to form election alliance with each other."

Senator Gulzar Ahmed Khan, former NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] Chief Minister, Nasir Afzal Khan, Jahangir Badar, Suleman Taseer and large number of local leaders were present at the airport to receive the PPP co-Chairman.

PRC Nuclear Official Meets With Prime Minister

BK0408145593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] The president of China National Nuclear Corporation, Mr. Jiang Zinxiong, called on the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, at the prime minister's house in Islamabad today. He conveyed the greetings of Chinese leaders to the prime minister, and assured that China is determined to complete the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant on schedule and its reactor would be safe and efficient. The caretaker prime minister thanked Mr. Jiang and asked him to convey his greetings to the Chinese leadership. Mr. Moin Qureshi said that considering the close China-Pakistan relations, the two sides will cooperate with full trust and confidence with each other and this project will prove mutually beneficial.

Calls on President

BK0508151193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has described the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant as yet another major landmark of Pakistan-China friendship. He was talking to the delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation headed by its president, Mr. Jiang Zinxiong, which called on him in Islamabad today. The president said that China's cooperation in the Chashma project symbolized its abiding interest in Pakistan's economic development. He said it would go a long way in meeting Pakistan's energy deficit and help further promote Pakistan's program of peaceful use of nuclear energy. Mr. Zinxiong reiterated China's interest in the progress and prosperity of Pakistan and assured the president of all possible help.

Start of Work on Chinese-Aided Nuclear Plant Marked

BK0508093093 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 4 Aug 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Commencement of the Work on Chashma Nuclear Power Plant"]

[Text] Speaking on the occasion of pouring concrete for the construction of the Chashma nuclear power plant, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, said Pakistan is in agreement with the PRC on the issue of continuing to cooperate in using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Speaking on the same occasion, Jiang Zinxiong, president of the Chinese National Nuclear Corporation, said that following completion of this project, both countries will be able to manufacture nuclear power plants. This project began 21 years after construction of the Karachi nuclear power plant. The Chashma nuclear power plant will generate 300 mw of electricity. An agreement on this project was reached between the prime ministers of the two countries in 1989, and was ratified in 1991.

The Karachi nuclear power plant was established with Canadian assistance. However, Canada later withdrew its cooperation, forcing Pakistan's scientists, engineers, and experts to take up the task of running this plant. They have proved that they are capable of fulfilling this responsibility. At present, the Karachi plant is still functioning successfully. The installation of the reactor at the Chashma plant and meeting most of the operational responsibilities once construction is completed rests with Pakistan's scientists and engineers. They will fulfill these responsibilities with Chinese assistance.

Plant's Cost, Benefits Questioned

BK0408125193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Chashma Nuclear Project—Welcome, But...."]

[Text] The news about the start of the construction work on the country's second nuclear power plant of 300 MW capacity at Chashma, near Mianwali is most welcome. The pouring of massive quantities of concrete on Sunday for constructing the reactor building has truly been described as a landmark and a milestone on the road towards harnessing nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. The plant when completed in 1999 will not only help augment the power supply in the country but also give renewed confidence to the APEC [Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission] to plan and build more nuclear power plants.

Apart from being yet another symbol of growing Pak-China cooperation and friendship the successful completion and operation of the plant also holds great meaning for Beijing. It means China's entry into the nuclear export field—a field thus far exclusively monopoliesd by the countries of the west. As a matter of fact China joined the International Atomic Energy Agency and subsequently signed the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) primarily for seeking access to the international nuclear market which has no place for suppliers who do not subscribe to the international non- proliferation regime. Chashma nuclear power plant is important step for China on way to becoming a credible nuclear supplier particularly to the countries of the Third World. The developing countries of the Third World can also rejoice as CHASHNUPP [Chasma Nuclear Power Plant] means that the dream of South-South cooperation is afterall achievable. They will no longer have to depend exclusively on the advanced industrial nations in their quest for latest technologies to meet their development needs.

But having said this, the Sunday's milestone development also revives some unanswered questions about the project. How much will it cost and is the cost commensurate with the benefits? Will it be completed on schedule because of the difficulties China is now faced with in the import of some sophisticated components for the plant as a result of its row with the US over issues like missile technology transfer etc? And what is the level and quantum of indigenous participation, if any, because the project is entirely a turn key one?

These questions are neither irrelevant nor trivial, nor these can be brushed aside behind the facade of screcy. What is secret about a power producing machine, even if such a machine is nuclear, which has already been subjected to international inspection and safequards? The total cost of the plant is not merely the stated cost of 590 million dollars of the plant. Add to it the fuel cost, the training cost of operators and technicians, the cost of the site development and building of laboratories for which separate agreements have been signed and the total cost, according to news reports, works out to over a billion dollars for a 300 MW power plant. The purpose of CHASHNUPP is only to generate power and a comparision with the 1300 MW Hub Power Project (which will also cost around one billion dollars) is inevitable. It is pertinent to ask why spend so money on a mere 300 MW nuclear plant when with the same amonnt a four times larger conventional power plant can be built? There is also the question of availability of critical components. For similar plants built in the past crucial components like pressure vessels, circulation pumps and computer system etc from Germany, Japan and France. With the changed international climate the availability of these parts to China has become very difficult. If China were also to manufacture these parts indigenously the question would still remain whether these would be safe and reliable because China has never made such components before.

There are grave mis-givings also about the local participation of Pakistani engineers and technicians in the project. It is a turn key project and the plant is not being co-manufactured in Pakistan to give the needed experience and confidence to the local industry. When negotiations first began the plant was said to be co-manufactured in Pakistan as the former Prime Minister stated before the National Defence College in early 1990. Later, however, the PAEC could not take up the challenge of accepting the responsibility for completion schedule, cost controls and reactor safety inherent in a co-produced plant and decided to let the Chinese complete the entire project from the beginning to the end. As a result the Chinese had to bring in even semi skilled labour of their own because they could not rely on the local labour for completing the project on schedule. Such questions need to be answered to ensure public scrutiny and accountability at every stage of project implementation. The PAEC deserves to be complimented for undertaking the country's second nuclear power project but it must also tell the people more about it candidly and honestly.

Japanese Plan for Asian Nuclear Initiative Viewed

BK0408121793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Aug 93 pp 1, 10

[By Javed A. Malik]

[Text] Islamabad—In the backdrop of Japan's next round of nuclear non-proliferation negotiations with Pakistan and India, scheduled this autumn, the "economic superpower" has decided to take a new Asia-wide initiative for dealing with the nuclear issue.

Japan's Science and Technology Agency has planned to call on Asian nations to establish a new regional forum to discuss issues surrounding the use of atomic energy, agency officials have been quoted to have said according to the Japanese daily, the NIHON KEIZEI SHIMBUN.

With many Asian nations, specially India, believing the present forums available for discussing the nuclear issues are dominated by the West and the developing nations are not treated equality, Japan's initiative is specially significant.

In the last rounds of nuclear non-proliferation talks held with Pakistan and India, Islamabad had specially noted the marked difference of approach followed by Japan in dealing with the issue in South Asian context. "Japanese are treating India and Pakistan on equal level while negotiating, contrary to the Americans who look at India's nuclear programme with much less contempt as compared to ours," a Pakistani foreign office official had said.

The proposed forum is likely to be called the Atomic Energy Cooperation Organization. It will provide an opportunity to the Asian nations to exchange information on atomic energy safety and discuss the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, officials said.

It is not clear yet, when will Pakistan and India be formally asked to join the forum, however, indications are they will be invited soon. "Countries like North

Korea, which are suspected of engaging in the development of nuclear weapons, will also be asked to join,"the newspaper said. The new framework will also be open to countries currently relying on nuclear power as energy source, such as South Korea, China and Taiwan.

The Japanese official said, they hoped that the new organisation will serve to bolster the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty in Asia.

The Science and Technology Agency aims at inaugurating the new organisation in 1995, with its head office in Tokyo. Member nations will be invited to dispatch staff by the end of next year, after a concrete plan is drawn up. Given Japan's increasing desire to play a role commensurate with its economic power in the world affair, the new forum is expected to be made an effective forum. Japan is aspiring for a Security Council permanent seat, a proposal opposed by Pakistan during the last UN Gen [General] Assembly session.

Role of 'Broker' in Afghan-Tajik Dispute Urged

BK0408130393 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 4 Aug 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Foreign Office Moves Correctly on Tajikistan"]

[Text] Mr. Sheharyar Khan, the foreign secretary, has indicated that the way to find a solution to the civil war in Tajikistan, and to the conflict between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, has emerged. The three sides seem to have agreed on bringing Tajik groups to the negotiating table following consultations between the special envoy of Russia, Mr Aleksandr Alexiev, and our foreign minister Abdul Sattar on the one hand, and the Afghan foreign minister, Dr Arsalah, on the other hand. Meanwhile, a foreign office spokesman has expressed Pakistan's resolve not to allow its territory for interference in the internal matters of other countries. The positive development in this regard, according to some reports, is that the leaders of the Tajik opposition have been asked to leave Peshawar. A positive change in Pakistan's stance occurred when the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] was restructured after the removal of Nawaz Sharif government in April. Mr Sheharyar Khan seems right in his perception of the region since a policy of peace and economic collaboration is in the interest of Pakistan and South West Asia.

The border skirmishes between Afghanistan and Tajikistan took a dangerous turn following the retaliation of Rusian-Tajik forces against the intruding Tajik guerrillas from Afghanistan, killing hundreds of fundamentalist rebels. The Afghan government and certain Afghan groups along with their allies from different countries, have been backing about 8000 Tajik rebels operating from Afghan-run camps. The Russians came to the rescue of the government in Dushanbe under a treaty signed by the components of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Meanwhile, the Russian envoy visited Kabul, followed by a visit to Pakistan, to find some negotiated solution. After an understanding reached among the three sides in Islamabad, the possibility of a solution appears to have emerged, and Pakistan should play the role of an honest broker keeping the long-term interest of the region in mind. The opportunity arisen out of the parleys in Islamabad, must not be squandered at the whims of the still rampant irredentists in our establishment. Pakistan will have to say goodbye to the agenda set by our cold-war warriors to start a new chapter as a peace-maker in the region. It suits the national interest and the overall interests of the region as well.